

UPPER SOUTH LONG LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

POBox 201, Brainerd, MN

JANUARY 2011

Board members: Ron Trosvig, President, Bruce Dybvig, Vice Pres, John Pietruszewski, Secretary, Don Crust (temporary) Treasurer, Sandy English, Jeff Gans, Ron Kossila, Beth Larson, Dan Martonik, Joe Nemo, Reiny Opp, Joe Patton, Mary Jane Reetz, Jeff Wollerman, Chuck Yancy

A Note From the Lake Association President

Seasons Greetings to the USLL Community! I hope that you all had a wonderful time enjoying our lake this year. We are entering 2011 supported by a strong and supportive lake community, a rich history of lake stewardship, some exciting opportunities and a number of challenges.

When I look back at 2010, the phrase that comes to mind in the words of my Norwegian Grandma Clara Trosvig is “Oh my Doodness”! Our lake agenda has been overflowing and activity by our lake association has been at an unprecedented level. Thanks for all of your contributions as we tackled a number of key issues.

Highlights from 2010

Lake Improvement District:

Thanks to the hard work by Don Crust, Mary Reetz, Dan Martonik and the LID Committee, the proposal for the USL-LIA Lake Improvement District was approved by the County Board on Aug 10, 2010. The LID positions us to improve the quality of water in Upper South Long Lake and to educate adjoining landowners in good stewardship of its watershed through a management plan. In mid-2011 a separate Board of Directors will be elected to govern the LID.

Muskie Proposal:

In early 2009 we were informed by the DNR that they were proposing stocking Muskies in both Upper and Lower South Long Lakes. Beth Larson, Chuck Yancey, and Jeff Wollerman led a committee to assess the pros and cons of muskies, communicate their findings to the USLL Community, survey your feelings and to create plans to communicate your overwhelming **99% opposition** to the proposal. This proposal has received high visibility in the media and has been hotly debated on a number of levels. We have taken an aggressive approach in opposing the proposal and will continue to do so. We expect to hear the recommendation from the DNR Q1, 2011.

Curly Leaf Treatment:

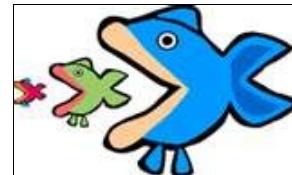
Due to heavy snowfall and deep ice the amount of Curly Leaf treated in 2010 was only 14 acres. This exotic grows under the ice the entire winter season and last winter it did not get adequate sunlight due to the snow cover. Historically we have had to treat 30 – 40 acres so this saved us money. We plan to treat again in the spring of 2011 with the remaining funding from the sale of the Weedcutter in 2009. Moving forward in 2012, we will leverage the LID funding to treat every year, which will allow us to control and gradually reduce the areas of infestation. We all need to continue to be good stewards by keeping the lake clean, reminding people at the public access to remove weeds and drain live-wells, and by educating friends and neighbors. We are always looking for volunteers so if you have some time and energy let us know and we will put you to work.

Together we can continue to keep our lake beautiful now and for future generations.

See you at the Spring Member meeting at the Green Lantern on Saturday, May 21.

Thanks for your ongoing lake stewardship and support!
Ron Trosvig – USLLIA President

Muskie Update



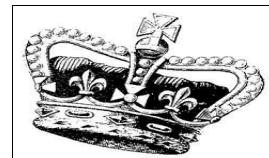
As you all know, one of the major issues on the lake over the past year has been the DNR's proposal to stock Muskellunge in both Upper and Lower South Long Lakes. As a lake association we took a poll of the lake residents and found that 99% of the association members polled were opposed to Muskie stocking for the following reasons: increased risk of introducing invasive species, loss of panfish, bass and walleye populations as the Muskies use them for food, increased boat traffic and increased pollution in the lake from the increased usage. For this reason our lake association board of directors took a position AGAINST stocking Muskies in the lake, and started diligently working on ways to block the DNR proposal.

Our first grassroots efforts were two petitions opposing the stocking which many of you signed. These were sent to the DNR during the comment period. The second was an email campaign to encourage lake association members to express their concerns to the DNR during the month of September. Third, we sent representatives to the Maple Grove and Long Lake Township meetings and garnered their opposition to the stocking proposals. Fourth, we went to the Crow Wing County board of commissioners and had them come out in opposition to the stocking proposal on the basis that the boat landings are inadequate and the roads to the landings are not large enough to handle the increased traffic that would occur. Finally, we have petitioned the Environmental Quality Board to order the DNR to perform an Environmental Assessment Worksheet and possibly an Environmental Impact Study prior to any fish stocking of the lake.

All of this was sent to the DNR in September and October. We requested a meeting with the DNR commissioner, but were denied pending a final recommendation by the DNR regional offices. As of the time of this update the DNR had not made any decisions regarding stocking. Hopefully the DNR will realize that USLLIA will put up a fight that is not worth their efforts, and they will take their Muskie fingerlings elsewhere! Many thanks are due to all the association members who distributed and signed petitions. Herculean efforts were put forth by Beth Larson and Jeff Wollerman in gathering and sorting through websites, studies and news releases to further the cause. Thanks to Ron Trosvig and Mike O'Brien for their leadership. Special thanks to Dave Fisher for contributing his legal expertise.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Yancey, Muskie Czar



Crow Wing County Lakes with Eurasian Milfoil:

Bay Lake 18-0034
Kimball Lake 18-0361
18-0002
Louise Mine Pit 18-0746
Lower Mission 18-0243
Ossawinnamakee Lake 18-0352
Ripple River, between Bay Lake
and Tame Fish Lake
Ruth Lake 18-0212
Upper Mission 18-0242

Please be sure to keep your address and email current. For changes contact Jack Rolfs or Beth Larson.

I just got off the phone with a friend in Northern Minnesota. She said that since early this morning the snow has been falling heavily and it is nearly waist high. The temperature is dropping below zero and the north wind is increasing, and her husband has done nothing but look through the kitchen window.

If it doesn't warm up pretty soon she'll have to let him in!



LID UPDATE

The Upper South Long Lake Improvement District (USLL-LID) is now an official, legal, functioning organization. It's approved by the County and sanctioned by the State. But it's the folks who own lakeshore property on our lake who made it happen.

Over 72 percent of those who own property on the shores voted to form this taxing district. Now all lakeshore owners can share in the important and essential projects designed to improve and protect the lake and its environment.

In July 2011 the County begins the process of building a fund based on a \$75 a year tax of each LID member. That's also the time when the new Board of Directors is elected and the planned budgeted projects begin to take shape.

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PAY YOUR DUES AND BEAT THE RECORD

Let's beat last year's record-breaking number of dues-paying USLLIA members! Response to the 2010 membership drive was very good. But we can do better, according to the membership committee.

Even though the old-timers and many newer lake-lovers came through with the \$25 dues last year we still are under 60 percent of potential. And with all the activity going on with our lake, more of us need to become a part of the organization to make it work well.

There is strength in numbers. All of us need to participate in our lake association for it to have the impact needed to face the issues in 2011. The Muskie issue, salvage yards, invasive weed species, overall water quality, the Nokissippi Watershed project and many more issues were recent major challenges – and they won't go away in 2011.

With the newly formed Lake Improvement District (LID) getting underway later this year, USLLIA can look forward to new opportunities. The Association must carry the load and provide the leadership necessary to get the LID properly organized.

So, the membership committee is asking for your action now. Use the enclosed envelope and mail your check right away. Let your dues payment be the one to beat last year's goal!!

Thanks in advance from the Membership Committee.

REPORT ON THE CONDITION OF THE LAKE

Submitted by Dan Martonik, Lake Monitor

Below are the results of the water testing from the past two years.

Note that the average Secchi reading (water clarity) has dropped slightly this year from last year. There could be several reasons for this including un-checked rain runoff and un-raked beaches.

The two things we can do to get better clarity: 1) Install a buffer zone to prevent rainwater runoff from reaching the lake. 2) As the weeds wash up on shore, remove them and dispose of them properly.

County	MN Lake ID	Lake	Site	Date Range	Data Source
Crow Wing	18-0096-00	Upper South Long	101	05-01-2009 - 09-30-2010	RMB Lab

*2nd Source data was retrieved from MPCA STORET database and came from a source other than RMB Environmental Laboratories, Inc.

Mean of data range selected in this report					19.4	13.1	7.3	46	54	48	50	
Date	Time	Site	Sampler	Lab Code	Data Source	TP ug/L	ChlA ug/L	Secchi Ft.	TSI Phos.	TSI ChlAl	TSI Secchi Ft.	TSI Avg.
5/31/2009	1:50 PM	101	Dan Martonik	98053	RMB Lab	20	32	6.5	47	65	50	54
6/14/2009	2:42 PM	101	Dan Martonik	99868	RMB Lab	14	6	10	42	48	44	45
7/19/2009	11:56 AM	101	Dan Martonik	104351	RMB Lab	21	12	6.5	48	55	50	51
8/16/2009	3:20 PM	101	Dan Martonik	107860	RMB Lab	19	12	7.5	47	55	48	50
9/20/2009	11:00 AM	101	Dan Martonik	111412	RMB Lab	16	12	7.5	44	55	48	49
Annual Summer Mean					18	14.8	7.6	45	55	48	49	
Date	Time	Site	Sampler	Lab Code	Data Source	TP ug/L	ChlA ug/L	Secchi Ft.	TSI Phos.	TSI ChlAl	TSI Secchi Ft.	TSI Avg.
5/23/2010	2:30 PM	101	Dan Martonik	120992	RMB Lab	30	13	7	53	56	49	53
6/20/2010	10:40 AM	101	Dan Martonik	124191	RMB Lab	17	9	8	45	52	47	48
7/18/2010	12:52 PM	101	Dan Martonik	128515	RMB Lab	16	12	8.5	44	55	46	48
8/15/2010	2:52 PM	101	Dan Martonik	131793	RMB Lab	18	9	6.5	46	52	50	49
9/19/2010	5:54 PM	101	Dan Martonik	135630	RMB Lab	23	14	5.5	49	56	53	53
Annual Summer Mean					20.8	11.4	7.1	47	54	49	50	