

The Chatty Loon

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

February, 2014
Edited by Dan Martonik



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President's Message



Greetings to the Upper South Long Lake community! We are having a super cold winter and I hope that you are all keeping warm!

Once again, we enter 2014 with an engaged community and a rich history of lake stewardship. We also enter the year continuing our focus on preventing Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).

The USLLIA BOD continues to partner closely with the USLL LID BOD in planning and funding lake improvement activities.

Focus areas for 2014 include:

- Expanded curly leaf pondweed treatments
- Continue water testing of inlets
- Ongoing water quality testing
- Continuation of the lake inspection program in partnership with Crow Wing County and the DNR. We will also begin a volunteer lake inspection program to provide broader coverage.
- Ongoing educational programs
- Social activities

We will be sharing the detailed 2014 plans at the **Annual Spring Meeting at the Green Lantern - 10AM, Saturday, May 24.**

Remember to check out our Website which is updated quarterly. We would love to have more pictures and family stories posted on the site. www.usllia.org

We are always looking for volunteers to serve on our boards and committees so please consider volunteering your talents and energy.

Thanks for your ongoing lake stewardship and support.

Ron Trosvig, USLLIA President

2013 Fall Water Quality Report



1. Continued testing water samples with RMB Environmental Laboratories, Inc. via the Crow Wing SWCD (Soil and Water Conservation District).

2. Latest water sample was taken on September 15, 2013, with a Secchi reading of 5.5 ft.

3. Seasonal Secchi average was 6.25 ft. for 2013.

4. Previous results can be viewed in detail by going on line to www.rmbel.info.

5. Summary data for the summer so far:

a. Total Phosphorus: Within expected range

b. Chlorophyll-a: Above expected range

c. Secchi Depth: Below expected range

6. We contracted with Lakes Restoration, Inc. 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.

7. The acreage treated this year was 8.3.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel J. Martonik, Committee Chair

Association Board of Directors

Ron Trosvig, President,
Secretary - open
Chuck Yancey
John Bettencourt

Dan Martonik, VP
Terry Lahti, Past Pres.
Gerald Spande
Jim Bitter

Don Crust, Treasurer
Jeff Gans
Judy Brazeman
Randy Peterson

We need your help

The USLLIA Board is desperately in need of someone to step up and take on the position of Secretary. If you or someone you know would like to apply for this time-honored and prestigious position, please contact Ron Trosvig at once.

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Lake Learning

Lake Stewardship and Protection

Our lakes are some of our most precious resources. Especially here in "Lakes Country", we understand the value of enjoying the lakes and the economic value of tourism involving our lakes. So, what is lake stewardship and how do we promote it?

First of all, 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.

Lake stewardship can be promoted through lake association meetings and publications such as a website or newsletter. At your lake association meeting, you can have an open brainstorming session about goals for the lake. People use lakes in different ways, and may have different goals for enjoyment of the lake. Discussing these goals in an open forum can help people understand each others viewpoints and vision for the lake.

Gaining an understanding of general lake processes and ecology can help people understand what is happening in their lake. Determining the current condition of your own lake can then provide a knowledge base that you can use to protect and restore your lake. After the lake's current condition is determined, associations can monitor water quality each year to learn about seasonal variability and year to year variability. If abrupt changes in water quality occur, they're able to investigate potential causes and respond accordingly.

The Freshwater Society and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency have put together an excellent Guide to Lake Protection and Management. This guide can be used in understanding your lake and developing a lake management plan. You can obtain this publication at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/lakeprotection.html> or by calling the Freshwater Society at 952-471-9773.

Banding together as an association and a coalition of lake associations is one of the best ways to share knowledge and understanding about lakes and lake stewardship.

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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From the LID President



Below is an abbreviated summary of the LID accomplishments submitted to Crow Wing County which is a yearly requirement.

Upper South Long LID accomplishments for 2013 have included:

- 1) A strong and consistent working relationship with the Upper South Long Lake Improvement Association, including water testing, invasives treatment, and education of our LID and Association members via association meeting programs and association/LID newsletter articles.
- 2) Securing LID tort liability insurance as required by the Crow Wing County Commissioners-completed Feb. 2013
- 3) Baseline water testing for invasives, chemicals (including certain heavy metals), etc. Additionally, we increased our water testing sites to include all known inlets to Upper South Long Lake.
- 4) 2013/2014 Project and Budget planning with major categories to include 1) Insurance 2) Invasives 3) Education 4) Water Testing 5) Fees 6) Mailings and Communication, and 7) Misc.

As an additional note, due to unusual weather conditions in late winter and early spring of 2013, our licensed vendor for treating our curly leaf pondweed infestation detected a comparatively small amount of treatable acreage during the allowable treatment timeframe. Thus, our annual expense for treatment this year was minimal. However, later in the spring, this invasive weed emerged, even in areas never treated in the past.....this was especially so in the north end of our lake near the Nokasippi Resort. These areas have been marked via GPS for future reference and treatment.

It should also be noted that our LID board applied for a grant money sponsored by the DNR for the control of invasives and was granted approximately \$1500.00 in 2013.

Moving forward, all 2014 projects will be funded with monies assessed and collected in 2012 and 2013, and we hope to continue this financial posture in the years to follow.

Additionally, it's important to recognize the important working relationship between the Upper South Long LID and USLLIA. The respective boards from these two entities fully intend to both communicate on a regular basis and work together for the benefit of Upper South Long Lake.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Dylwing, LID President

Membership Committee



For Don

Don Crust, Committee Chair

Dan Dosh Tree Service

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2013/14 Ice Fishing Report

It was a very unusual ice freeze. On December 1st there was 6 inches of beautiful clear ice covering the lake, but by Dec. 3rd we got about 12 inches of insulating snow and everything went downhill from there.

The new ice turned to a layer of slush under the snow, making the lake virtually impassable. It remained that way, with only a handful of fish houses spotted on the lake until mid-January.

There were some 4 wheelers getting stuck trying to pull portable fish houses.

Snowmobiles could be seen traveling very fast to avoid getting stuck, kicking up rooster tails of slush and water.

It wasn't until about the middle of January that the ice conditions started to improve and more fish houses appeared on the lake.



The good news is, the fishing pressure was very light this winter, so the fishing after the ice-out is expected to be excellent!

Dan M.



Are you kidding me?

So Sven and Ole are sitting at the bar at the golf club...

Sven: "Say Ole, how come I never see you and Lars golfing together? You two were always close, like those guys from "Dumb and Dumber".

Ole: "Vell, would you golf wit a guy who kicks the ball out of the rough and onto the fairway every chance he gets? Den cheats on his scorecard on nearly every hole?"

Sven: "No, I guess I wouldn't."

Ole: "Vell...Lars wouldn't neither."

On their honeymoon trip, they were approaching Minneapolis when Ole put his hand on Lena's knee. Lena giggled and said: "Ole, you can go funder den dat, ya know?" So Ole put the pedal to the metal and drove to Duluth.

USLL LID and USLLIA Relationship Explained

The Lake Improvement District (LID) is a separate entity that will work in cooperation with USLLIA to fund a water quality management plan.

- The LID does not replace USLLIA.
- We still need your USLLIA membership support and contributions.

LID: "The purpose of the LID is to improve the quality of water in Upper South Long Lake and to educate adjoining landowners in good stewardship of its watershed. This will be accomplished through a management plan. There is a serious need for long term planning and funding for long term environmental projects. The long term control of Curly Leaf Pondweed is a major problem at the present time."

- Funding organization
- 5 year program beginning in 2011 that may be renewed
- Focus on water clarity & invasives
- 13 specific projects proposed
- Need to report back to the County on results
- Audit Committee

USLLIA: "The purpose shall be to provide a means whereby the membership of this corporation may promote, preserve and protect, rehabilitate and enhance, the quality generally, of Upper South Long Lake."

- Is a permanent organization that has been around since the 1970's.
- Became a non-profit corporation under State of Minnesota Regulations in 1980
- Became a 501C3 non-profit corporation under regulations of the Federal IRS in 2003.
- USLLIA membership directs the agenda and priorities
- Education
- Updating the Lake Management Plan
- Manage the Long Range Plan
- Membership

USLLIA Benefits:

- Response to issues
- New directory
- Website
- Newsletters
- Education
- Manage relationships with DNR, County, Township and other agencies
- Formal working committees (Recreation, Land, Water).
- Manage the USLLIA Strategic Plan first created in 2003
- Manage everything that is not in LID plan

Ron Tronig

2013 LID test results

2013 Water Testing Results for Inlets to Upper South Long Lake.



Testing in 2013 involved all 4 inlets to the lake while that of 2012 only involved two inlets, one near Silver Bay Road and the other near Paradise Shores Road. The LID board decided to add the other main inlets in order to establish baselines so that we could more closely monitor the health of the lake. The second two inlets are the Nokasippi River and another creek near the end of Rognaldson Road.

RMB Environmental Laboratories, Inc. located in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota is being used for all this testing. At their suggestion, the baseline tests were run in July at a time when no significant rain had occurred for a longer period. A second set of tests was run in September a few days after a rainfall of approximately a half inch.

The types of tests to be performed were determined after discussion with RMB personnel.

Tests are: pH, Total suspended solids (TSS), Total phosphorus, Orthophosphates, and Conductivity. The Silver Bay Road site is still also being monitored for the presence of heavy metals due to a salvage company located within the watershed.

Inlet 1: located near Silver Bay Rd. and Rognaldson Rd. on the northern end of the lake. Testing was done on May 8th, July 11th and September 13th.

The metals testing continues to show results well within the benchmarks set by the MPCA for a recycling/salvage yard except for an elevation in iron (higher in September than in July).

The LID board decided to add testing of orthophosphates and total phosphorus in order to compare to the other inlets beginning with the testing in July.

The total phosphorus reading appears to be elevated (.08 mg/L). The orthophosphate was 3X higher in

September than in July but still at an acceptable level while the TSS was 7X higher in September than in July at 20 mg/L.

Inlet 2: located near Paradise Shores Rd. on the east side of the lake.

In July, all tests were in an acceptable range except total phosphorus which was also .08 mg/L. Nothing of concern showed up in the September samples although conductivity was slightly above the acceptable range at 293 umhos/cm.

Inlet 3: located near the end of Rognaldson Rd. on the west side of the lake.

The TSS of 6 mg/L in July is considerably higher than for the other inlets as is the conductivity, although that is still in the acceptable range.

Both of these readings were even more elevated in the September readings. (conductivity at 420 umhos/cm and TSS at 15 mg/L. Total phosphorus was also above the guidelines in September at this inlet at 102 mg/L.

Inlet 4: the Nokasippi River with samples taken at the culvert on County Rd. 24.

All results there are in the acceptable range for both the July and September samples. Conductivity and orthophosphates are at the high end of the range.

Members wishing more information on the benchmarks or acceptable levels for testing will find more specifics at www.usllia.org. Click on the "Lake Improvement District" link in the left hand column.

Ruth Naber, LID Board Member

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Upper South Long Lake Improvement
Association
PO Box 201
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Upper South Long Lake Improvement Association

Spring meeting

Green Lantern

10:00 am

Saturday, May 24, 2014

**Time to kick off the 2014 season, meet old friends, make new ones!!
Don't forget free coffee and donuts!!**