

The Chatty Loon

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

Summer, 2013
Edited by Dan Martonik



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- Ron Trosvig, President
- Dan Martonik, Vice President
- Don Crust, Treasurer
- Secretary - open
- Terry Lahti, Past President
- Jeff Gans
- Chuck Yancey
- Gerald Spande
- Judy Brazeman
- John Bettencourt
- Jim Bitter
- Randy Peterson

A new look for the Newsletter

Mary Reetz has been the editor of our newsletter for many, many years and we appreciate all of the hard work she has done. She is stepping down from this job, so it's time for her to relax and let someone else take over.

This is my first issue; for me it's like on the job training. I hope to get better as time goes by. Enjoy the new look.

Dan M.

P.S. I hope you like the new title.

We would like to welcome John Bettencourt, Jim Bitter and Randy Peterson to the USLLIA Board of Directors.



John Bettencourt



Jim Bitter



Randy Peterson

President's Message

Greetings to the Upper South Long Lake community. We are off to another great summer season "at the lake"!..

We would like to thank two long serving Board members who are stepping down. Mary Reetz has chaired the Land Committee and has been the editor for the newsletter and John Pietruszewski has been Secretary. Thanks to Mary and John for all their contributions!



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 honorable and prestigious position, please contact Ron Trosvig at once.

Please join us for the late summer meeting at the Green Lantern on Sat. Aug. 24, 2013 at 10 AM. We will have a presentation by Bob and Char Wrobel from "Wild and Free" which is a non-profit organization out of Garrison. The veterinarians and others volunteer their time to rescue, rehabilitate and release injured animals like bears, bobcats and hawks. This should be very informative. You can learn more at www.wildandfree.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

Call for USLL Stories and Pictures:

We have a "Member Stories" tab on our Website (USLLIA.org) that is designed to capture family stories, lake history, anecdotes, and memories. We would love to post your stories or pictures on our website. If you are interested, please contact USLLIA1@gmail.com.

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Lake Learning

Boat Motors and Water Quality

As Minnesotans, we love cruising along the lakes in our watercraft. Whether we are heading to our favorite fishing spot, waterskiing, or taking a sunset cruise, not much can top the feeling of taking in the fresh lake air.

Yet as the number of motorized boats and size of motors on Minnesota's lakes continues to increase, questions arise about the potential effects these boats have on the lake environment. In the last 20 years, there has been a 36% increase in the number of registered boats of all types in Minnesota. Moreover, the number of motorboats between 16 ft and 26 ft in length increased 118%, while the number of motorboats less than 16 feet decreased by 27%. Average horsepower went from 46.1 to 74.5 from 1987-2001 in a DNR survey of west central Minnesota. Our boats are becoming larger and faster, which increases the potential to effect water quality.

So how do boats affect water quality? The Wisconsin DNR did a study on the effects of motorized watercraft on aquatic ecosystems. Boats can affect water quality in a few different aspects. First, they can add metals and chemicals to the water column. A certain amount of the fuel that enters into a motor is discharged unburned and ends up in the water. Two stroke motors can emit 25-30% of their unburned gas and oil mixture into the water. In contrast, four-stroke motors emit 97% less air and water pollution than old two-stroke motors. This pollution can affect the pH and dissolved oxygen in the lake, which can influence the type and abundance of fish and wildlife.

Another main impact by motors is churning up the lake bottom in shallow areas. This action stirs up the lake sediment, re-suspending nutrients (phosphorus) that are at the lake's bottom. When these nutrients reach the surface of the water where the algae are, they can feed algae and cause an algae bloom. This stirring can also decrease the water clarity because of additional particles suspended in the water column.

So what can you do to protect your lake? 1) Establish no-wake zones in shallow areas with waterfowl nesting and bulrush stands. "Slow no wake" means operation of a watercraft at the slowest possible speed necessary to maintain steerage, but in no case greater than 5 miles per hour. 2) Educate lake users to avoid sensitive areas and drive slowly through shallow areas. 3) Upgrade your boat motor from an old two-stroke engine to a four-stroke engine. Four-stroke engines use fuel more efficiently, produce cleaner exhaust, and run more quietly than traditional two-stroke engines.

To reduce your impact while boating, there are other easy changes in behavior we can all practice.

1) Keep your boat properly trimmed – an engine in the water makes much less noise and creates less wake; 2) keep your engine well-tuned so that it runs more efficiently, pollutes less and is quieter; 3) be respectful to wildlife and loons, keeping a distance of at least 200 feet away at all times; 4) consider the size of your boat and motor when choosing a lake for recreation – smaller lakes are not appropriate for large boats or engines; 5) remember that swimmers, canoeists, kayakers, sailboats and other non-motorized users always have the right-of-way.

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

Effective Mixing Depth

Effective mixing depth is the maximum depth at which the engine stirs up the water and, in turn, the lake bottom sediment. The importance of these findings is that power boating in shallow areas on lakes is likely to stir up bottom sediments, decreasing water clarity and releasing nutrients from the lake bottom, which can feed algae blooms.

Horsepower	Mixing Depth
10	6 feet
28	10 feet
50	15 feet
100	18 feet

Source: *Lakeline*, December 1991



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Water Quality Report

As everyone is aware, our spring was one of the coolest and most prolonged in recent history. Old man winter also gave us a heavy snowfall. These two factors combined to give us stunted curly leaf weed beds after the ice-out on May 10th. When it came time for our treatment provider to check where the weed beds were, they could only find 8.8 acres.

However, it didn't take long for the curly leaf to make an appearance in front of the Nokasippi Resort. That area was not originally detected by the provider. I marked off the weed bed and we will make sure to treat it next year.

The Secchi disk readings so far this year are:

May 5 ft

June 9 ft

July 6 ft

Dan Martonik, Committee Chair

Membership Committee

Twenty to go...

Would you believe it? We only have 20 to go to match last year's record of dues-paying members. There are always a few who have overlooked the annual privilege. But just about the same time you get our newsletter, our late-payers will find a reminder in the mail. And those who have never taken advantage of all the benefits of membership will get a mailed appeal. It's only \$25 a year folks. We want and need you on our membership list. Hope to hear from you.

Don Crust, Committee Chair

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LID News

The Upper South Long Lake Improvement District (LID) annual membership meeting took place on Saturday, July 20th, at Char's Bar. Gary Hopping and Bruce Dybvig were re-elected to the board and Chris Psootka was newly elected. They will join current board members Mary Reetz, Ruth Naber, and Mike Simons. We say "good bye with thanks" to retiring director John Pietruszewski, who has been a charter member and served as the Board's Secretary.

The membership voted to approve a budget for the 2013/2014 business year of \$25,000, and as part of this budget amount, a line item expense amount for treatment of invasives in the amount of \$20,000.

It should be noted, based on our treasurer's report, that our current fund balance is just over \$16,000 with most of our annual expenses paid, and our estimated income yet to be received includes about \$15,500 (annual property owner assessments-\$75.00/year), and about \$800.00 in grant monies based on invasives treatment in 2013.

Following the annual meeting, the new LID board met and elected the following officers for the business year 2013/2014:

Bruce Dybvig, Pres.

Mary Reetz, Vice Pres.

Mike Simons, Sec.

Gary Hopping, Tres.

Bruce Dybvig, LID President

Update on water quality testing by the LID

The LID has begun water quality testing of the four major inlets to the lake. The initial testing for three of these sites was done on July 11th. The Silver Bay Road creek has been tested for a longer period of time to determine if pollutants from an auto salvage yard upstream in the watershed are entering the lake. The 2013 testing of this site occurred on May 8th and July 11th.

Data will need to be further analyzed, but it is interesting to note that the Rognaldson Road creek has significantly higher readings at this time for conductivity and total suspended solids, while the Paradise Shores Road and Silver Bay Road creeks show elevated phosphorus levels compared to the other inlets.

To understand what these results might mean for the health of Upper South Long Lake, explanations of most of the tests being run will soon be available on the USLLIA web site in the LID section. At the end of the open-water season, I will also post to the web site a summary of the test results for each site.

Ruth Naber, LID board member

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July 4th Boat Parade

By all accounts, the Boat Parade was a BIG success. It was hard to be accurate but our best guess as to the number of boats is 50+. It was a bright and sunny day and maybe a little bit windy as the parade rounded the bend at Nokasippi Resort, but I don't think anyone was complaining about the wind. It was a wet and wild day and everyone was having a good time.

Dan Martonik



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Lake Learning

Aliens invading our lakes

Green aliens are invading our lakes! These aliens are not from a different planet, but from different continents, mainly Eurasia. Today I will talk about some common aquatic invasive plants, why they are harmful to our lakes, what the status is in this area and what you can do to protect our lakes.

I'll start out by defining some commonly used terms. The terms "exotic", "alien", and "nonnative" can all be used to describe a species that does not naturally occur here, and has been brought here either accidentally or intentionally. In contrast, "native" plants occur naturally and are fully integrated into the ecosystem. Native aquatic plants are good and necessary habitats for fish, birds and other aquatic organisms.

Not all alien plants are harmful, but those that are can disrupt the natural ecosystem, out-compete native plants and take over large areas. These plants are considered "invasive" and "nuisance" species. Invasive aquatic plants can get out of control because there is nothing in the ecosystem naturally to keep the population in check. When invasive plants take over a lake or wetland, the biodiversity in the ecosystem can decrease, meaning that there are fewer different kinds of plants and animals that can live there. When invasive plants form dense mats, they change the habitat and make it unsuitable for fish, birds and other aquatic organisms.

The plants I'll talk about today are Eurasian watermilfoil, Curly-leaf pondweed and Flowering rush. For pictures, you can visit: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticplants/index.html>. With all these plants total elimination is probably not realistic, but lakes in the area keep the populations in check by spraying herbicides. To spray these plants, a DNR permit is required. The DNR has grants available for lakes to obtain funding for control of these plants. For more information visit: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/habitat/lakewide.html>.

Eurasian watermilfoil is probably the plant you hear most about. Luckily, it is not established in Ottertail or Becker Counties yet, so let's keep it that way! It is present in some lakes in Cass, Crow Wing and Douglas Counties, so we need to be vigilant. Once it is established, it grows in such dense mats that it is tough to swim and boat through. If you've ever been on Lake Minnetonka, you'll know what I mean. To prevent its spread make sure you check over your boat, trailer and propeller every time you put your boat in and take it out of the water. Eurasian watermilfoil can spread by a single segment of stem and leaves. There is a closely related native plant called northern watermilfoil. Northern watermilfoil has 5-6 leaflets per plant while Eurasian watermilfoil has 12-21 leaflets per plant. If you think you have found Eurasian watermilfoil, save a sample of it and report it to the DNR (1-888-MINNDNR).



Eurasian watermilfoil



Northern Milfoil: 5-6 leaflets per branch



Eurasian Milfoil: 12-21 leaflets per branch

Curly-leaf pondweed is a nuisance because it can form dense mats in early spring that interfere with recreation. When it dies off in June, it washes up in thick piles on the shoreline. It has wavy leaves with serrated edges and a flat, reddish stem. Like Eurasian watermilfoil, it can spread from remnants of the plant left on boats. Curly-leaf pondweed grows best in fine, silty sediment and can be controlled with chemicals. Curly-leaf pondweed can be confused with whitestem pondweed, which has a more round green stem.



Curly-leaf pondweed



Eurasian flowering rush

Flowering rush was actually brought here intentionally because it has beautiful flowers. Flowering rush used to be sold commercially for use in garden pools, but now it is illegal to sell. Flowering rush has become a problem in some of the lakes around Detroit Lakes. The Pelican River Watershed District (PRWD) is conducting a research project to see how best to control Flowering rush. To read more about this project visit: <http://www.prwd.org/>.

Please be vigilant in the spread of aquatic invasive plants. Keep recreation on our lakes enjoyable and the lake ecosystem healthy. At boat landings, there are usually DNR signs telling which invasive species are present in the waterbody and how to prevent their spread. Never transplant aquatic plants that you haven't bought at a nursery and are unsure of what they are. For more information and pictures of these plants, visit: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticplants/index.html>.

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

Upper South Long Lake Improvement
Association
PO Box 201
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Upper South Long Lake Improvement Association
Late Summer meeting
Green Lantern
10:00 am - 11:30 am
Saturday, August 24, 2013
Let's get the whole flock there!!