

## Ole & Lena

One day Ole comes home from work and announces; "Lena! Pack your bags I've won the lottery!" Lena replies with excitement and says, "O Ole Where are we going?" Ole replies, "I don't think you heard me right, I said pack YOUR bags I'VE won the lottery."

Ole lay dying in his bedroom. He began to revive as he smelled the aroma of fresh lefsa wafting through the house. Ole managed to gather his strength and crawled out to the kitchen. Just as he reached for a sample of his loffy Lena's lefsa she slapped his hand and said, "No Ole, don't you know that's a for the funeral"

Lena competed with a French woman and an English woman in the Breast Stroke division of an English Channel swim competition. The French woman came in first, the English woman second. Lena reached the shore completely exhausted. She remarked, "I don't vant to complain, but I tink dose utter two girls used der arms."

Sven and Ole from Minnesota went fishing in Canada and returned with only one fish. "The vay I figger it, dat fish cost us \$400" said Sven. "Vell," said Ole, "At dat price it's a good ting ve didn't catch any more."

One day Lena confided to her friend Hilda that she had finally cured her nervous husband, Ole, of his habit of biting his nails. "Good gracious," said Hilda, "How did yew ever dew that?" "It was really simple," was Lena's reply. "I yust hid his false teeth."

Ole and Lena were getting on in years. Ole was 92 and Lena was 83. One evening they were sitting on the porch in their rockers and Ole reached over and patted Lena on her knee. "Lena, vat ever happened tew our sex relations?" he asked. "Vell, Ole, I yust don't know," replied Lena. "I don't tink ve even got a card from dem last Christmas."



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This is how we ice fish on Upper South Long Lake!

Ole and Lars were on their very first train ride. They had brought along bananas for lunch. Just as they began to peel them the train entered a long, dark tunnel. "Have yew eaten your banana yet?" asked Ole, excitedly. "Vell, no! replied Lars. "Vell don't touch it den!!" Ole exclaimed. "I Just took vun bite and vent blind!!"

Ole bought Lena a piano for her birthday. A few weeks later, Lars inquired how she was doing with it. "Oh," said Ole, "I persvaded her to switch to a clarinet." "How come?" asked Lars. "Vell," Ole answered, "because vith a clarinet, she can't sing."



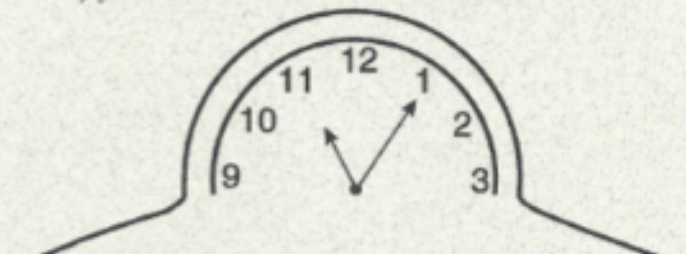
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## Become an AIS volunteer boat inspector

The 2015 season at the lake is here. Now is the time to start thinking of ways to keep our lake free of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). One way we can combat them is by inspecting the boats and trailers as they enter our water.

Crow Wing County, along with the MN DNR, has professional inspectors available for us to schedule at our public boat launch. They will be at Upper South Long Lake 200 hours this year. The state and county assign hours based upon our risk factor. Right now, we are not a High Risk body of water. It would be great if they were here more often.

### Let's fill in the gap!

One way that we can supplement their inspectors is to have our own. The DNR offers classes where interested parties can go and learn how to inspect the boats and trailers as they are launched. These are three hour classes where they inform you as what to watch for and how to inform the boaters on what they can do to stop the movement of any AIS.

A class will be offered in Brainerd on May 2, 2015. Here is a link to their website that shows all of the classes that are offered and how to register. [http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais\\_volunteer.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais_volunteer.html).

**Our goal is to have enough volunteers to cover at least the weekend hours the DNR is not here.**

**After the Spring meeting there will be a short session on how this will play out.**

For any questions or ideas contact me at: [randy-peterson@cox.net](mailto:randy-peterson@cox.net).

*Randy Peterson*, USLLIA Board Member

## Lake Learning

### Clear ice and aquatic plants

This year Upper South Long Lake froze over quickly before there was any snow, so the ice is very clear.

Clear ice without snow on top allows sunlight to shine through the ice and be used by algae and plants for photosynthesis. This allows plants and algae to grow throughout the winter under the ice. This can be both good and bad for the lake.

It is good to have plants and algae growing under the ice, because when they photosynthesize they give off oxygen as a byproduct. This oxygen is then available for fish, aquatic insects and other aquatic animals to breathe. Since the ice cuts the lake off from the air in the winter, oxygen is harder to come by underwater unless plants and algae are producing it. Lack of oxygen under the ice is what can cause fish kills over the winter.

Clear ice can be bad if you have Curly-leaf pondweed in your lake. Curly-leaf pondweed is an aquatic invasive plant that is fairly wide-spread in Minnesota. It is a nuisance because it can form dense mats in early spring that interfere with recreation. When it dies off in early July, it washes up in thick piles on the shoreline. Curly-leaf pondweed can grow through the winter if light is available, so if the ice is clear most of the winter, the Curly-leaf pondweed can get a good head start on growing and spreading.

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](mailto:lakes@rmbel.info)). To learn more, visit [www.rmbel.info](http://www.rmbel.info).

This article was rewritten to recall ice conditions for our lake during the 2014/2015 winter season, ed.

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# Lake Learning

## Clean Water Indicators

One way to determine water quality is to do clarity monitoring (Secchi depth) and chemical testing (phosphorus) in the lake. Another way to determine water quality is to look for clean water indicators. Using both water quality monitoring and clean water indicators is a good way to fully understand your lake's health and ecosystem. In science, two explanations that come to the same conclusion are better than one.

Clean water indicators are plants and animals that live in and around the lake and rely on it for survival. Organisms reflect their environment and live there year round (in some form). Some animals are very tolerant to pollution, while others are very intolerant. Clean water indicators are the animals that are intolerant to pollution. If your lake never had these indicators, don't worry, it could be that they never lived there. The indicators mentioned below mainly apply to lakes over 50 feet deep in northern and north-central Minnesota. If you used to have these indicators and you don't have them any more, that's when you'll know that water quality has been impacted in some way.

### Hexagenia mayfly

These mayflies are filter feeders found in the soft silt or sand of streams and lakes. Because mayflies can't survive in water that lacks oxygen, they are good indicators of the amount of eutrophication (phosphorus). These mayflies are everywhere during one week in June and then they're gone. They all emerge as adults at the same time to increase their chance of mating successfully.



### Common Loon

Loons are diving birds that use their eyesight to capture their food. They need clear water and healthy fish populations. Also, in order to make nests and protect their young, they need undisturbed natural shoreline with tall vegetation. If your lake is ringed by manicured lawns, you may lose your loons due to lack of nesting areas.



### Freshwater Mussels

Mussels filter oxygen and particles from the water, cleansing the water in the process and absorbing what they consume into their bodies and shells. It is for these reasons that mussels are sensitive to changes in their environment and serve as indicators of the health of our lakes and streams.



### Tullibee/Cisco

Tullibee/Cisco are important forage species for the lake's game fish. They are mainly found in lakes over 60 feet deep, and they need highly oxygenated water to live. When lakes lose their Tullibee populations, it can indicate increased eutrophication. The loss of Tullibee then affects game fish populations because they are a major food source. To find out if your lake has Tullibee, visit the DNR Lakefinder web site: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/index.html>. Look up your lake by name and county, and when your lake information comes up, click on "go" under the heading "Lake Information". This page will show the DNR Fisheries report for your lake.



Degradation of our lakes and rivers from runoff of silt and chemicals as well as physical changes from damming, channelization, and dredging, have taken their toll on native mussels in North America. In addition, invasive zebra mussels can out-compete native mussels and displace them from their native areas.

In summary, fish, birds and other aquatic organisms need a healthy habitat to survive. To maintain a healthy lake ecosystem, this habitat needs to be preserved. If these clean water indicator species disappear from your lake, it could indicate a water quality problem. Decreases in water quality and the loss of habitat and spawning sites for game species are often the primary mechanisms that create opportunities for "less popular" fish species (bullhead, carp). The best way to avoid this is to protect habitat where game fish spawn and rear their young. Also, to protect fish and bird food sources such as invertebrates, aquatic insects, and aquatic plants.

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