

The Chatty Loon



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

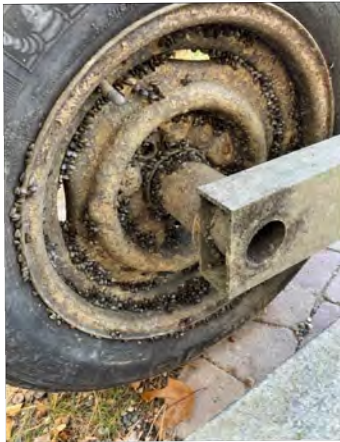
October, 2022
Edited by Dan Martonik

President's Message



Hello to all of you Upper South Long Lakers then. Well, we made it through the summer of '22, sad to see it end so soon. It got cold way too fast!

In the last newsletter I talked about the Zebra Mussel "watch". Well we watched them explode on our lake this season! See the photo to the left, this is the inside wheel of my boatlift and the other wheel is just as bad. There are approximately 700 to 1000 on the wheel, way too many to count.



According to studies, ONE female zebra mussel can produce 30,000 to 1 million eggs in one year! This is not what we want to hear about our lake, but it is reality.

There is no way to stop them at the present time, but researchers are hard at work trying figure out something.

It will be interesting to see what the changes for our water clarity will be in the coming years.

Ruth Naber, our LID president, will have more to say about these critters in her article on page 2.

[more](#)

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).

We have a record number of members in our association! Read about it in Blaine Hakomaki's report on page 2.

Thanks for your ongoing lake stewardship and support.

Dan Martonik, President

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From the LID President

The leaves are falling, the loons have left, and groups of swans are stopping by. The open water season is drawing to a close. Water levels at Upper South Long began the year at adequate spring levels and maintained fairly well throughout the summer compared to some areas of the state.

It has been a year of "good news, bad news" in terms of AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species). While surveys detected smaller amounts of both CLP (Curlyleaf Pondweed) and EWM (Eurasian Watermilfoil) than in 2021, the infestation of Zebra mussels that was discovered in a couple of locations in the fall of 2021 seems to have spread aggressively throughout the lake. Four beds of CLP were located and two of those were chemically treated in June. Only one area of EWM was identified and was treated in early October.

There is currently no effective treatment for Zebra Mussels. Those of you who have found them on your boats, lifts, docks, etc. may wish to scrape them off before returning those items to the lake in the spring. The shells are very sharp, and you may not want them collecting along your shoreline where recreation may be taking place. Removal is only REQUIRED if the boat, dock, or lift is being transported away from Upper South Long Lake. The DNR website has a permit form that should be used in that situation for transporting invasives.

Efforts to monitor for other invasive species or contaminants are ongoing and have not identified any issues. Examples include spiny waterfleas, starry stonewort, chloride testing, and inlet testing.

As mentioned in the spring Chatty Loon, a couple of changes were approved by the LID membership at a well-attended July annual meeting. One of the three by-law changes will eliminate the "Call for Nomination" letter seeking new LID Board of Director nominees. Please consider whether you would be interested in being placed on the ballot in June. Notify any of the below named directors of your desire. Membership also approved an

Continued 

increase in the tax assessment which supports the work of the LID. That increase is now pending Crow Wing County Commissioners' approval. Most importantly, that increase will allow us to build a reserve to deal with any newly discovered AIS aggressively and to reinstate some of the testing that was eliminated in 2022 due to lack of funds in addition to being able to treat all CLP and EWM in 2023 and beyond.

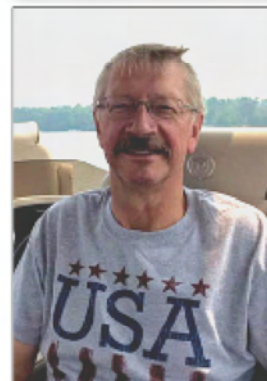
Thank you for your support in maintaining the health of Upper South Long Lake.

Current Board of Directors: Ruth Naber, President; Steve Bardolph, Vice President; Ray Sickler, Secretary; Gary Hopping, Treasurer; Chris Psocka; Al Steiff

Submitted by Ruth Naber, LID President

Membership

By Blaine Hakomaki



The paid membership for the lake association is at 194 this year! This an all time high! Definitely up from previous years and is a good percentage of the residents on our lake!

I would like to see full participation by all residents since the funds collected are directed to keeping and making Upper South Long Lake a premier lake place.

Loon sign update:

As part of the annual lake association signs and 2022 sticker update, 1 sign was replaced due to damage and ten signs were newly installed on address poles. I enjoyed installing signs for the new or retuning members, this summer.

In addition to the annual \$25.00 membership dues, a number of renewals also included donations to the Association and the Lake Improvement District (LID). These donations are very much appreciated and will be well used.

Upper South Long Lake has one of the more vibrant and active lake associations in the Brainerd Lakes area, and this is a testament to you, the members!

STEVE FLEISCHHACKER

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SOUTH LONG LAKE EXCAVATING

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Septic System Installation





These readings are for the 2022 summer season.

Secchi readings at primary site 101:

| | | | |
|------|------|--------|------|
| May | 7.0' | August | 4.5' |
| June | 6.0' | Sept | 5.5' |
| July | 7.0' | | |

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

Daniel J. Martonik, Water Committee Chair

Lake Levels for '22

By John Pietruszewski

At the beginning of May, the lake level was up about 9.5 inches from the middle of October 2021, 1195.17 feet. Heavy rainfall in the middle of May raised the lake level six inches and brought the lake above the ordinary highwater mark of 1195.5 ft. The lake started to drop during June, but significant rain late in June caused the lake to reach its maximum level for the year on July 1st of 1195.51 ft. By the end of September, the lake was down to 1194.17 ft.

The lake level is the actual elevation of the surface above sea level, based on the 1928 datum. Water level readings are provided to the DNR on a regular basis throughout the open water season. Usually from dock in to dock out. During this period the lake changed heights of 17.28 inches, 1.44 ft.

During this period rainfall amounted to 20.41 inches. These are the monthly amounts, in inches:

| | |
|-----|------|
| May | 5.29 |
| Jun | 6.86 |
| Jul | 1.83 |
| Aug | 4.45 |
| Sep | 1.98 |

John Pietruszewski

Lake Association Board of Directors

- Dan Martonik, President
- Jeff Gans, Vice President
- John Pietruszewski, Secretary/Treasurer
- Ron Trosvig, Past President
- Terry Lahti
- Chuck Yancey

- Randy Peterson
- Blaine Hakomaki
- John Bettencourt
- Gerald Spande
- 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



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This is an article that was provided by
Essentia Health a few years ago, ed.

HOOKED?



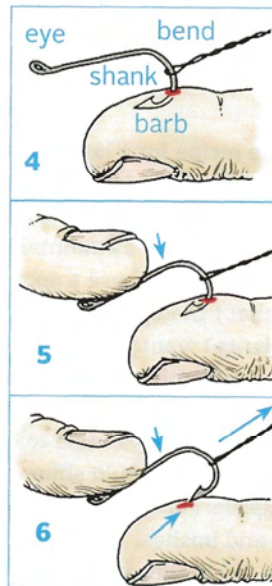
DO NOT try to remove a fish hook that is deeply embedded in the skin, lodged within a joint or tendon, or located in or near an eye or artery. If you are at all unsure, it is best to **seek medical attention immediately**.

DO NOT CUT THE HOOK. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO PUSH THROUGH TO CUT OFF BARB.

String Yank Technique

How to remove a fish hook from your finger

1. Remove hook from lure by cutting at attachment ring; DO NOT cut the hook itself.
2. Tape any additional free hooks to prevent other hooks from also getting embedded.
3. First, wash your hands with soap and water, or disinfecting solution, and then wash the area surrounding the hook.
4. Tie off a loop with some fishing line. Place the loop over the hook's shank and lightly pull it against the bend of the hook.
5. With your other hand, press down and back on the hook's eye.
6. Continue pressing down on the hook's eye. Quickly and firmly jerk the fishing line backward, ensuring that the line is parallel to the shank. *Don't worry; only a tiny bit of flesh is behind the barb.*
7. Wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water and apply a bandage.
8. Watch the area for signs of infection such as redness, swelling, pain, or drainage.



Be prepared

- Keep electrician's pliers with a wire-cutting blade and disinfecting solution in your fishing tackle box.
- Tetanus immunization (vaccine) should occur every 10 years. If needed, it may be done any time in the 72 hours following the injury.

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Recreation

By Terry Lahti

Fishing Season Dates

Walleye, Pike, and Bass - closes February 26, 2023, and opens May 13, 2023

Crappie and Sunfish – Open Year round

Walleye Stocked in Upper South Long Lake 2017 – 2021

Walleye will be stocked again in 2023

| Year | Species | Size | Number | Pounds |
|------|---------|-------------|---------|--------|
| 2021 | Walleye | fingerlings | 3,816 | 159.0 |
| | Walleye | adults | 185 | 67.0 |
| 2019 | Walleye | fingerlings | 1,828 | 52.0 |
| | Walleye | fingerlings | 6,522 | 129.0 |
| | Walleye | fry | 300,000 | 2.5 |
| 2017 | Walleye | yearlings | 508 | 154.0 |
| | Walleye | adults | 13 | 19.0 |
| | Walleye | fingerlings | 30 | 1.4 |
| | Walleye | yearlings | 1,256 | 387.0 |



Ice fishing contest on Upper South Long Lake. Photos are dated January, 2010.

Did you know?

New ice is usually stronger than old ice. Four inches of clear, newly formed ice may support one person on foot, while a foot or more of old, partially thawed ice may not.

Ice seldom freezes uniformly. It may be a foot thick in one location and only an inch or two just a few feet away.

Ice formed over flowing water and currents is often dangerous. This is especially true near streams, bridges, and culverts. Also, the ice on outside river bends is usually weaker due to the undermining effects of the faster current.

The insulating effect of snow slows down the freezing process. The extra weight also reduces how much weight the ice sheet can support. Also, ice near shore can be weaker than ice that is farther out.

Booming and cracking ice is not necessarily dangerous. It only means that the ice is expanding and contracting as the temperature changes.

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Ice Safety information

For new, clear ice only

UNDER 4" - STAY OFF
 4" - Ice fishing or other activities on foot
 5" - 7" - Snowmobile or ATV
 8" - 12" - Car or small pickup
 12" - 15" - Medium truck

By: Bethany Chaplin, Conservation Specialist
Crow Wing Soil & Water Conservation District

In 2019, Crow Wing County and Crow Wing Soil & Water Conservation District teamed-up to begin chloridewater sampling. Monitoring has encompassed seven Crow Wing County lakes along Crow Wing County roads(Figure 1). The goal is to monitor the long-term effects of applying road salt. The initial data taken from 2019 to2022 for Upper South Long Lake indicates **low, safe chloride levels** ranging from **3.79 milligrams per liter(mg/L) to 5.1 mg/L**.

Chloride is a permanent pollutant. One teaspoon of salt pollutes five gallons of water. A lake is impaired by chloride if two or more samples exceed 230 mg/L within a three-year period; or, one sample exceeds 860 mg/L. Alicia Overbo conducted a study in Minnesota and found that 42 percent of annual chloride inputs came from road salts. Around 403,600 tons of road salt are applied to Minnesota roads each year.

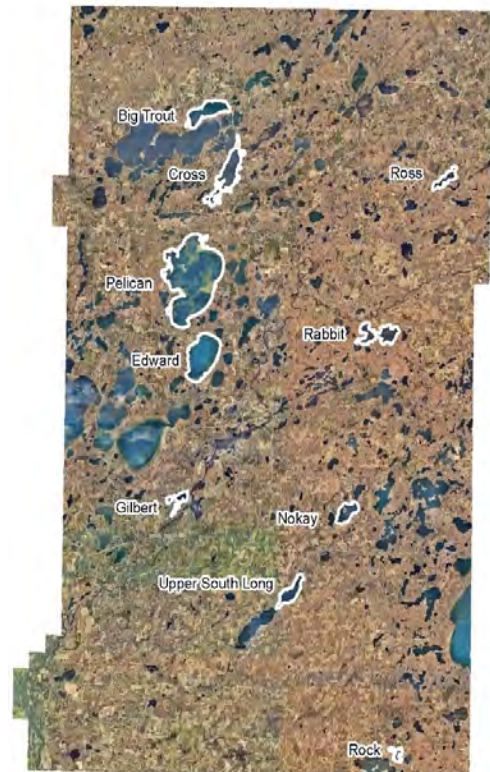


Figure 1. White outlines show lakes that are part of the chloride monitoring. Lakes include Big Trout, Cross, Edward, Gilbert, Nokay, Pelican, Rabbit, Rock, Ross, and Upper South Long. We have sampled on seven out of the ten lakes.

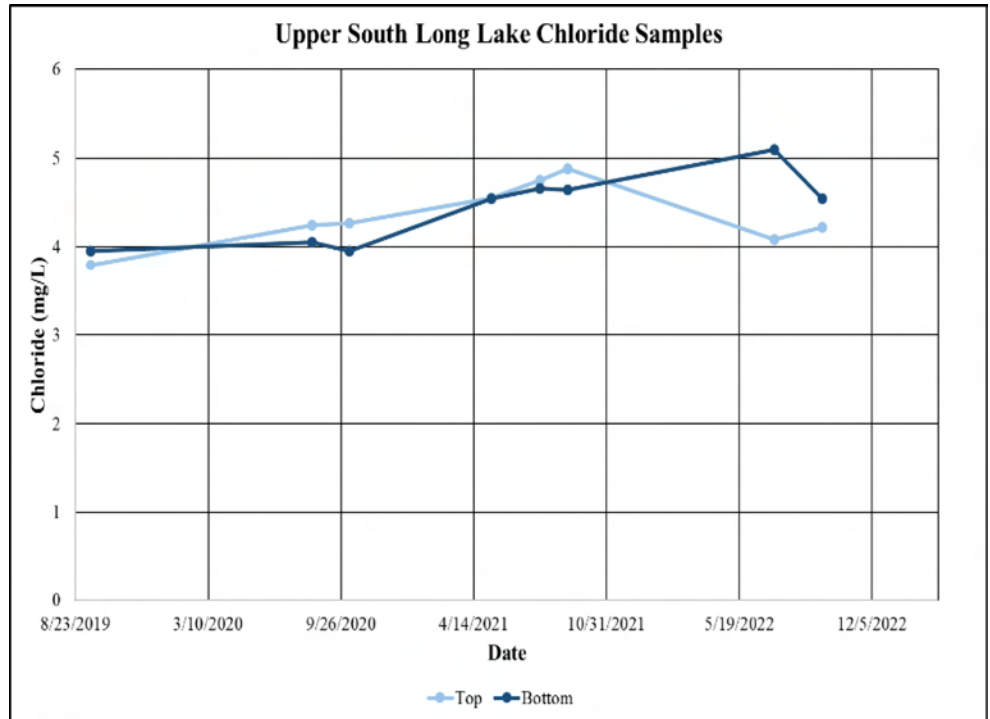


Figure 2. Upper South Long Lake chloride monitoring results from September 19 th , 2019, to September 21st , 2022. Samples are typically taken once in the spring, summer, and fall. Samples on seven out of the ten lakes.

Crow Wing County Highway Department is currently Level 1, and Level 2 Smart Salting Certified through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. These trainings teach snowplow applicators how to protect water resources by using less salt while maintaining safe paved surfaces. If anyone is interested in attending a class check out the following links in the resource section for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency’s training calendar.

Chloride monitoring was accomplished with a Van Dorn Sampler, and Secchi Disk. The Van Dorn Sampler is used to grab water samples at one meter below the surface and one meter off the bottom of the lake. We sample at those depths because chloride is heavy, and it sinks to the bottom of the lake. A Secchi Disk measures the water clarity.

On the 2022 Minnesota impaired waters list, 54 waterbodies listed chloride as the primary pollutant or stressor. Chloride negatively affects fish and aquatic bugs by lowering diversity and productivity. Native fish and bug species are more sensitive to chloride changes than nonnative species. The Crow Wing County chloride monitoring data shows all seven of the lake’s chloride results are **below** the chloride standards set by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. This monitoring will continue for many more years to come.

*A big thank you, to our volunteer lake residents: Ruth Naber, and Dan Martonik. They have been more than willing to accommodate our busy schedules to accomplish sampling on Upper South Long Lake.

Contacts: Bethany Chaplin, Conservation Specialist,
Crow Wing Soil & Water Conservation District
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Lake Learning

Wetlands and Lake Water Levels

The term "wetlands" can mean many things to people. Whether you think about mosquitoes, a swampy inconvenience or a rich wildlife habitat, wetlands are critical to water storage and drainage in northwest Minnesota. Wetlands affect everything from lake water levels, to flooding basements, to fish spawning, to duck populations.



"Wetlands" is the collective term for marshes, swamps, bogs, and similar areas. Wetlands are found in flat vegetated areas, in depressions on the landscape, and between water and dry land along the edges of streams, rivers, and lakes. There are about 9.285 million acres of wetlands remaining in Minnesota, which is about 52% of what we originally had before the state was settled.

Wetlands prevent flooding by holding water much like a sponge. By doing so, wetlands help keep river levels normal and filter and purify the surface water. Wetlands accept water during storms and whenever water levels are high. When water levels are low, wetlands slowly release water. Wetlands may be temporarily flooded by rain, or be filled seasonally with water from melting snow. The plants that thrive in wetlands are adapted to water level fluctuations.

Removal of wetlands removes a sponge to hold water, so that water has to go elsewhere. This water can contribute to more severe floods and higher water levels in lakes. Developments in areas that used to be wetlands can still affect the houses there. If your basement is prone to flooding, your house could be in an area that used to be a wetland. If there is no wetland to store and soak up the water, the water goes elsewhere and floods your basement and/or the nearest river.

Wetlands around lakes in Becker, Crow Wing and Ottertail counties include emergent wetlands, which are usually colonized with cattails, bulrush and water lilies. These areas are important for water storage and filtration and should be preserved to maintain lake water levels. These wetland areas around lakes also act as a buffer to the lake and filter the water and take up nutrients before the water flows into the lake. If these wetlands get filled up with grass clippings, leaves and yard waste, they are essentially clogged, and cannot do their job of water storage and filtration. Protecting these wetlands also preserves fish spawning and duck habitat.

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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SEWER SERVICE

So we got some old but okay jokes then

MY FRIEND thinks he is smart. He told me an onion is the only food that makes a person cry. So I threw a coconut at his face.

THREE PEOPLE were sentenced to die at the guillotine. The first was a lawyer. He was led to the platform, blindfolded and had his head put on the block. The executioner pulled the lanyard, but nothing happened. To avoid a messy lawsuit, the authorities let the lawyer go free.

The next was a priest. They put his blindfolded head on the block and the executioner pulled the lanyard, but the blade didn't go down. They thought it must have been divine intervention, so they let the priest go.

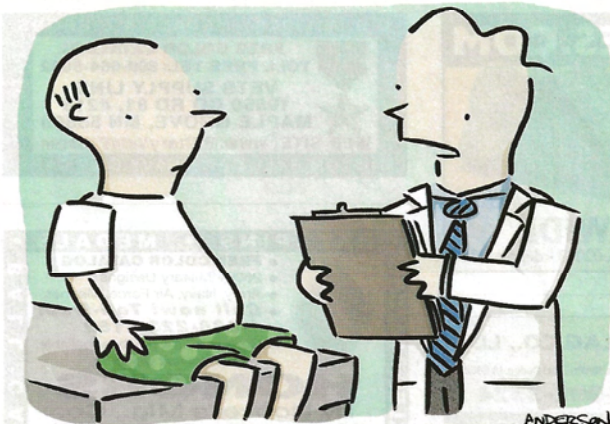
The last person was an engineer. He waived his right to a blindfold, so they led him to the guillotine and put his head on the block. As he lay there, he shouted, "Hey, wait! I think I see your problem!"

I THOUGHT my neighbors were nice, generous people. Then they put a password on their Wi-Fi.

A HUSBAND AND WIFE were driving through Louisiana. As they approached Natchitoches, they started arguing about the pronunciation of the city's name. They bickered back and forth until they stopped for lunch.

At the counter, the husband asked the cashier, "Could you settle an argument for us? Would you pronounce where we are very slowly?"

She leaned forward and said, "Burr-gerr Kiiing."



"How much exercise would you say you skip each week?"

A PRIEST, A RABBI AND A MINISTER walk into a bar. The bartender asks, "Is this some kind of joke?"

IN THE HOSPITAL, JOE TOLD HIS WIFE he was feeling much better since the operation except for this bump on the back of his head. "Oh that," said his wife. "They ran out of anesthetic."

AT A TRACK MEET last weekend, a 100-year-old woman won a gold medal in her age group in the 100 meter dash. Her opponents dropped out of the race in 1987."

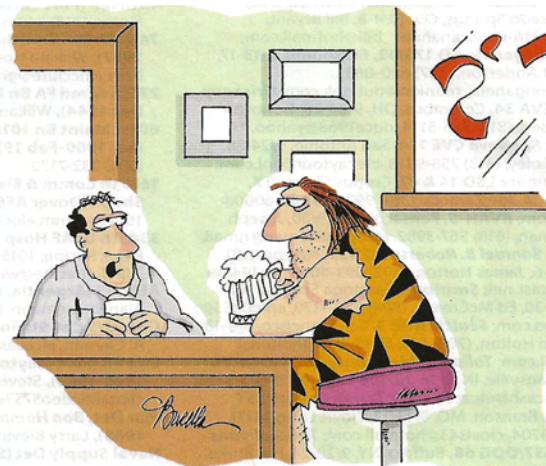
- Conan O'Brien

TWO SHOPPERS parked at the mall, got out of their car, and realized they'd locked it with the keys inside. "We'll have to break a window to get them out," one said to the other.

"No," the other replied. "Maybe we can get a wire hanger and use it to to unlock the door."

"That never works."

"Well, we'd better think of something. It's starting to rain, and the top is down!"



"You're lucky. My wife won't let me have a man cave."

MY FRIEND boasted that he had the body of a Greek god. I had to explain where Buddha actually comes from.

A PICKPOCKET was in court for petty theft. The judge declared, "Sir, you are hereby fined \$100."

The lawyer stood up and said, "Your honor, my client has only \$75 on him at this time. If you'd allow him a few minutes in the crowd"

"TWO STUDENTS in England were hospitalized after taking part in a caffeine research study where they were accidentally given the equivalent of 300 cups of coffee. This accident resulted from putting a decimal point in the wrong place. And the lab technician responsible said, 'I'm sorry, I didn't have my morning coffee.'" - James Corden