



Lake Washington Improvement Association
PO Box 68 Dassel, MN 55325
www.lakewashingtonassn.com
Email: info@lakewashingtonassn.com

Fall '12 Newsletter

END OF THE DOCK

Ken Klehr, President

I ran across an interesting article "What Everyone Can Do to Preserve Our Water". I thought I would share some of the points in this article.

1) Keep it natural-restore your shore

Preserving or installing a shoreline landscape that is rich in native species allows water to soak in rather than run off. Plants absorb nutrients, and vegetative buffers along shorelines also trap sediments that fill in wetlands and lakes. Natural erosion controls are more consistent with an "up-north" look than unnatural shoreline erosion treatments such as rip-rap.

2) Appreciate aquatic plants

Aquatic "weeds" are a critical life-support system for our lakes. With their amazing filtering abilities, native aquatic plants such as cattails and bulrushes are natural water purifiers-- taking up nutrients and allowing sunlight to penetrate into the lake and create the base of the food chain. The rooted aquatic vegetation is also a veritable fish nursery. Work to minimize the removal of shoreline aquatic vegetation.

3) Maintain your septic system

Keep your septic system in good working order. Pump at least every three years (more if you use a garbage disposal), conserve water; properly dispose of harmful paints and household chemicals, fix leaky faucets, and consider service agreements with regular maintenance.

4) Reduce roofs and roads

Roofs, sidewalks, paved driveways, and roads increase the amount of water that runs off into our lakes. Run-off water carries fertilizers, household cleaners, paints, solvents, pesticides, and motor oil. Decrease the amount of hard surfaces on your property. Use newer, more pervious materials for sidewalks, driveways, and patios.

5) Be considerate of all lake users

Shore land owners and users value Minnesota waters in many different ways. Consider some of the many different ways we use our lakes: personal watercraft, boating, tubing, water-skiing, fishing, hunting, canoeing, wildlife-watching and swimming. Part of being a good lake steward and neighbor is being considerate of everyone's values. Follow local watercraft rules and noise ordinances to help ensure a positive experience for everyone who uses Minnesota's waters for recreation.

6) Show up. Speak up. Write a check.

Decisions are made by those who show up and speak up. Join your lake association. Give money, time, input and feedback to support organizations working to protect Minnesota's waters for future generations. Share your knowledge with your neighbors and with those elected and appointed officials who represent you. Be vigilant.

I just looked out the window. Thought I saw a snow flakes. Need to get the dock out and the snowmobile and fish house out of storage. See you on the ice this winter.

One last point, please remember that after September 10th, all smallmouth bass caught are catch and release.

With that I would like to thank you for your support over the years. If you are not a member please consider joining and supporting our effort to protect and preserve this precious resource for us and future generations to enjoy.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

John Fink, Kim Winter

Save these dates for 2013:

Saturday May 4th, 2013 FREE Dinner, complete dinner & annual meeting
Saturday August 3rd, 2013 All Lake pot Luck dinner, reports & door prizes

Both will be at the Dassel Rod & Gun Club, northeast side of Lake Washington

FINANCE / FUND RAISING COMMITTEE

Lyle Walker

Financial activity has slowed down with the arrival of the end of the summer season. Membership stands at 217 as of September 30. There are no unpaid bills on hand. Total funds available as of September 30 are \$103,054.73.

COOKBOOKS

Cathy Klehr, Sandy Wosmek

Lake Washington cookbooks are available for \$10.00. To purchase a cookbook call Cathy @ 320-626-2056, Sandy @ 320-275-4662 or go to info@lakewashingtonassn.com and we can get a copy to you.

DARWIN MUNICIPAL LIQUOR STORE

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SHORELINE CAPTAINS/MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Cathy Klehr, Rick Johnson, Sandy Wosmek, Mike Wosmek

Another great summer is behind us as we wait for the next season – winter – where we can still enjoy our lake and the various activities that the snow and ice provides.

Thanks to all who paid their membership dues, it helps in our effort to keep our Lake Washington clean and healthy for ALL to enjoy throughout the year. We were hoping to match last year's record of 233 paid memberships but fell short at 217. If you have not paid your dues for this year, you can still do so by mailing in a check for \$50 to LWIA, Box 68, Dassel, MN, 55325. We all need to work together in supporting our lake needs.

Many Thanks to the Shoreline Captains for volunteering their time in keeping you informed of lake issues.

For changes of address, phone, e-mail or any other information we should be aware of, please contact us at info@lakewashingtonassn.com.

INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Ron Bubony, Tom Hauer, Ken Klehr, Milt Lueneburg, Bill Ooley

Washington Association Board Meeting (LWIA) on Oct. 2 about the Invasive Species surveys conducted this year. The DNR did two whole lake surveys, one in the spring that was completed May 30 and another one that was completed August 28. A map of Lake Washington with the DNR survey is available on the LWIA website: www.lakewashingtonassn.com.

Even though Eurasian Water milfoil (EWM) continues to exist in Lake Washington and there is no history of eradicating or stopping the spread within a lake, the survey showed there was no increase in EWM. There are about 250 of Minnesota lakes that are infested with EWM.

Of the 70 acres that were treated in 2012, 25 of those acres did not take. These 25 acres on the east side of Lake Washington will be retreated by PLM next year at no cost. The 5-year contract with PLM has expired and the board is reviewing its options for continuing with the EWM treatment program.

Future plans are to treat 70 acres per year to control EWM and the DNR will conduct its next survey in 2017.

Another issue Brown discussed with the board is zebra mussels. There are roughly 60 Minnesota rivers and lakes infested with zebra mussels. The DNR is trying to control the spread of zebra mussels by conducting inspections. The state has given the DNR more funding to increase their inspection hours. The LWIA is checking into a grant to increase the level 1 inspection hours for Lake Washington.

Fish [Stocked](#) by Species for the Last Ten Years

Year	Species	Size	Number	Pounds
2011	Walleye	fry	2,463,000	19.0
2009	Walleye	fry	1,169,357	11.0
2009	Walleye	fry	884,771	9.6
2009	Walleye	fry	395,770	3.6
2007	Walleye	fry	2,450,028	26.6
2005	Walleye	fry	2,449,000	22.3
2003	Walleye	fry	2,449,000	18.0

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COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Rick Fernstrom, Steve Ullom, Steve Grotbo

Authorization Forms for Transport of Prohibited Invasive Species and Aquatic Plants

The DNR has several authorization forms to allow boat owners and shore land owners to transport prohibited invasive species, such as zebra mussels, and aquatic plants in these situations:

- Transport of boat lifts, docks, swim rafts and related equipment with prohibited invasive species attached to a repair or storage location and removal of the prohibited invasive species.
[Authorization form - equipment](#) **PDF**
- Transport of watercraft with prohibited invasive species attached to a repair or storage location and removal of the prohibited invasive species.
[Authorization form - watercraft](#) **PDF**
- Transport of aquatic plants or aquatic plants with prohibited invasive species attached to a disposal location.
[Authorization form - aquatic plants](#) **PDF**

Authorization forms are not permits and it is not necessary to apply to the DNR to use them. A person can use one of the forms by taking these steps:

- Downloading the appropriate form from this Web site;
- Printing the form;
- Filling in the required information on the form; and
- Signing the form and carrying it during transport.

These forms are a one-way pass to allow either the transport of prohibited species attached to boats or water-related equipment to a location where the prohibited invasive species must be removed, or to transport aquatic plants to a disposal location. Boats and equipment must have visible prohibited species removed before any subsequent transport to another location or back to the water body where the watercraft or equipment originated.

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CORMORANT/PELICAN IMPACT COMMITTEE

Milt Lueneburg, Arlan Lovald, Rick Fernstrom

On August 7, 2012, the LWIA received a response from the DNR Office of the Commissioner regarding the growing population of cormorants and pelicans on Pigeon Lake. In summary, Commissioner Tom Landwehr stated “The DNR recognizes the LWIA’s concern about the increasing cormorant and white pelican populations found on Pigeon Lake. However, DNR Fisheries analyses of the lake survey records do not indicate a significant impact to the walleye population or the overall fish community.” To read the entire DNR response, go to the LWIA link at <http://www.lakewashingtonassn.com/pdfs/DNR-Resp.pdf> . The LWIA responded to the Commissioner Landwehr with data from the July 2012 fish survey that shows further decline of the overall fish population. The following recommendations were made to the DNR to continue the effort:

Assign select DNR resources to a working group tasked to work with areas lake associations

- 1) Work with area lake associations to develop a DCCO/AWPE management plan
- 2) Define control parameters – bird population targets, reduction techniques
- 3) Canvas area lake associations for feedback and information
- 4) Schedule and present findings and activity to area lake associations
- 5) Produce a quarterly report defining conditions, actions, future plans

To read the entire LWIA response, go to the LWIA link at <http://www.lakewashingtonassn.com/pdfs/LWIA-Resp.pdf> .

As this newsletter was published, a response had not yet been received from the Commissioner. The Cormorant/Pelican Impact Committee will continue to communicate with the DNR and speak with data that supports a public depredation order to reduce/control the Pelican Lake cormorant population. It appears that no matter what the data shows, the DNR will respond with the “do nothing” approach. Sadly, while this forced complacency design remains constant, the recreational value of our lake continues to degrade.

www.dasselcovenant.org 320.275.3315

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9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship
after Memorial Day Summer Service 10 am