



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

Fall '13 Newsletter

END OF THE DOCK

Ken Klehr, President

I am sitting here looking out at the lake. With the beautiful fall foliage this is one of the most enjoyable and relaxing time of the year, at least mentally. The other side of that coin is the need to pack our play toys away for the year such as pontoon, boat, kayak, and canoes with the most challenging, not a play toy, our docks and lifts. The movement and transportation of some of these items bring up the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) laws and changes in them over the last several years. Here are some highlights of those laws:

DO

- Clean all aquatic plants, zebra mussels and other prohibited invasive species from boats and trailers.
- Drain water from boat, bait buckets, motor, drain live well and bilge plugs by removing drain plugs:
Keep drain plugs out while transporting water craft. You can't arrive at lake access with drain plug in place.

DON'T

- Transport aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or other prohibited species, whether dead or alive.
- Launch watercraft with prohibited species, whether dead or alive
- Transport water from Minnesota lakes or rivers.
- Release live bait into the water.

These are not all encompassing laws but important for everyone who enjoys our waters to help protect this natural resource. Not only do the laws help protect lakes and rivers from new infestations, they are a sound practice to reduce the chances of taking home an unwanted aquatic hitchhiker. So take the time to read and understand the laws. More detailed information about Minnesota's AIS laws is posted on the DNR website at www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/law.

As you read thru this newsletter you will see the Committees have been very active this year from Cormorants, Lake Membership Survey, Chemical treatment of 145 acres, while reducing treatment costs, affording larger treatment area, 3 Newsletters, forming a Watershed Committee to heighten focus on improving water quality, and a member of Meeker County Association of Lakes. Along with obtaining grants at state and county level, we are participating in a Crow River Organization of Waters grants totaling in the amount of \$142,000. Also, Facebook, LWIA website, Annual Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner (greatest event). Here is a list of the people that make our organization so successful. Rick Fernstrom, Vice President; Steve Ullom, Secretary; Lyle Walker, Treasurer; and Cathy Klehr, Membership Chair; Other Board Members: Ron Bubany, John Fink, Steve Grotbo, Pat Hanson, Tom Hauer, Rick Johnson, Skip Sustacek, and Mike and Sandy Wosmek. Volunteers Milt Lueneberg, Bill Ooley, Kim Winters and all the Shoreline Captains. Thanks for their dedication.

The Board would like to thank all members who support us with their generous donations. 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.

Now back to the task of taking my dock out! Need to locate my portable fish house and snowmobile.

FINANCE / FUND RAISING COMMITTEE

Lyle Walker

Memberships for 2013 received through September 30 number 219, generating \$10,950 in revenue for the Lake Association. There are no unpaid bills on hand and funds as of September 30 total \$81,115. Grant money from the State of Minnesota and Meeker County will be received in the near future.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Skip Sustacek, Mike & Sandy Wosmek, John Fink

SAVE THESE DATES FOR 2014

Saturday, May 3rd, 2014 FREE DINNER, Complete Dinner & Annual Meeting
Saturday, August 2nd, 2014 All Lake Pot Luck Dinner, Reports & Door Prizes
Both will be at the Dassel Rod & Gun Club

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

LOCATED ON HWY 12 NEXT TO OUTPOST GAS STATION IN DARWIN
OPEN: MON-THUR 9am-9pm
FRI-SAT 9am-10pm

SEASONAL BEERS

THIRD STREET-JACKED UP
LEINIE'S ORANGE SHANDY
BECK'S OCTOBERFEST
BLUE MOON PUMPKIN HARVEST

BRING THIS COUPON IN
AND RECEIVE
10% OFF

HOLIDAY HOURS:
THANKSGIVING EVE: 9AM-9PM
THANKSGIVING: CLOSED
CHRISTMAS EVE: 9AM-8PM
CHRISTMAS: CLOSED

WINE OF THE MONTH

TURNING LEAF
REFRESH
AVAILABLE IN 3
VARIETIES
\$5.49

(320) 693-2586 darwinliquor@gmail.com

SHORELINE CAPTAINS/MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Cathy Klehr, Rick Johnson, Mike & Sandy Wosmek

Thanks to all that paid their membership dues. It helps in our effort to keep our Lake Washington clean and healthy for ALL to enjoy throughout the year. If you have not yet 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.

Special Thanks to the Shoreline Captains for all the time and effort they put into reaching out to lake residents and especially in distributing and collecting the Property Owners Survey.

Sheryl Faust	Jenna O'Brien	Bob Paulson	Phil Flores	Christine Ullom, Liz Milne
Jenny Kjell	Grace Brinkmann	Mike, Sandy Wosmek	Sharon Daniels	Ray Haugland
John Sandstede	Jim Wendling	Jim Barnes	Steve Knapp	Ruth Fink
Nancy Finkenauer	Mary Jo Lyke	Milt Lueneburg	John Bartz	Cathy Klehr

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 Bubany, Tom Hauer, Ken Klehr, Milt Lueneburg, Bill Ooley

This summer we finalized the areas to be treated for milfoil containment. The treatment areas were agreed by the DNR and also our suppliers (PLM and Lake Restoration). As a result, 145 acres were treated, as follows:

Vendor	Activity	Area	Acres	Charge
<i>PLM Lake & Land Mngmnt Inc.</i>	Retreatment	2012-1	27.5	0
<i>PLM Lake & Land Mngmnt Inc.</i>	New Treatment	2013-2	64.6	15,667
<i>Lake Restoration Inc.</i>	New Treatment	2013-1	53.8	15,801
			<u>145.9</u>	<u>\$31,468</u>

Note that grant monies of \$14,950 will be forthcoming from state and local agencies to offset the amount paid by LWIA.

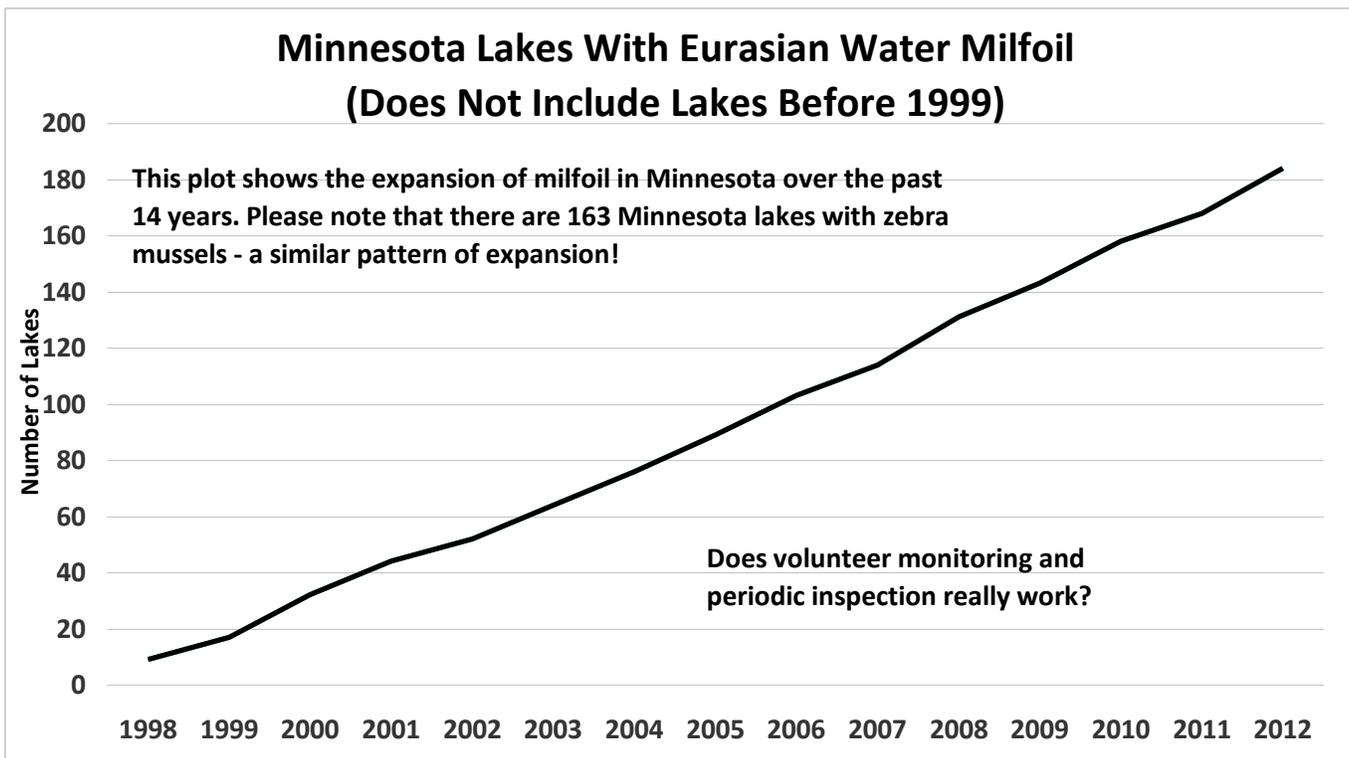
Also note that since 1999 we have spent a total of \$218,145, less \$88,103 in grant money, for the treatment and control of Eurasian Water Milfoil.



The ongoing expenses we are incurring for milfoil control have prompted us to arrange for an additional supplier, Lake Restoration, Inc. – giving us the opportunity to compare costs and results between two vendors. This winter we will analyze the results achieved by both companies and settle on one of them for next year’s treatments. We will consider price, of course, but also the treatment results and overall capabilities of the candidates.

After the treatments were completed we conducted additional surveys of both the treated areas and also those areas treated in previous years. Although we found a number of native “good” plants, we are happy to report that milfoil findings were very close to zero. A good year indeed. But, we will be watchful next year for recurrences which could quite possibly, even probably, happen.

On the state level we continue to see encroachment of invasive species into new lakes every year. The following chart demonstrates the expansion of Eurasian Water Milfoil into our state since 1999, now exceeding 200 lakes. Zebra mussels fall into second place, affecting just under 200 lakes.



As mentioned earlier, we have spent over \$200,000 treating milfoil in our lake. Similar amounts are being spent by other Lake Associations, with a total expenditure probably in the millions. These dollars come from us – through our taxes, contributions, and membership dues.

Public control measures to date have centered mainly on educating the public and “off and on” monitoring of public access sites. It would appear that these programs are not successful, and we should consider lobbying for better use of the money we are providing. Talk to those who are in a position to do something about this.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Steve Ullom, Steve Grotbo, Rick Fernstrom

We would like to acknowledge and thank the following area businesses that supported Lake Washington Association by donating door prizes for our Annual Pot Luck Dinner August 3. Hutchinson Sears Store, Litchfield Sears Store, Dassel Coop, Farmers State Bank – Darwin and Dassel, Blue Moose Restaurant-Darwin, Darwin Locker, Dassel Bakery, Econofoods -Litchfield, B&B Sports-Hutchinson, 3rd Street Café- Dassel, Darwin Liquors, Latte Da Coffee- Dassel, Darwin Monument, Midwest Gardens-Dassel, Ron’ BP Gas-Dassel, Runnings-Litchfield, DC Auto Parts-Dassel, Jimmy’s Pizza-Dassel, Red Rooster Foods-Dassel, Casey’s-Dassel, Lake Region Insurance-Cokato. We believe the best thank you is for us to seriously support these businesses.

Lake Property Survey Update: we collected 222 surveys and that equals about 69% of the properties on Lake Washington. Four words written on the surveys paint a clear picture, they were in order cormorants, pelicans, re-stock, and milfoil. When asked to rank order issues/problems: 1. Milfoil, 2. Cormorants, 3. Water Quality 4. Fishing/fish populations, 5. Runoff into the lake, are clearly areas people in the lake community see a need for special attention and the board has taken note of this. A complete summary and analysis of the Property Owners Survey will be completed over the winter months, posted on our website, and shared with all property owners.

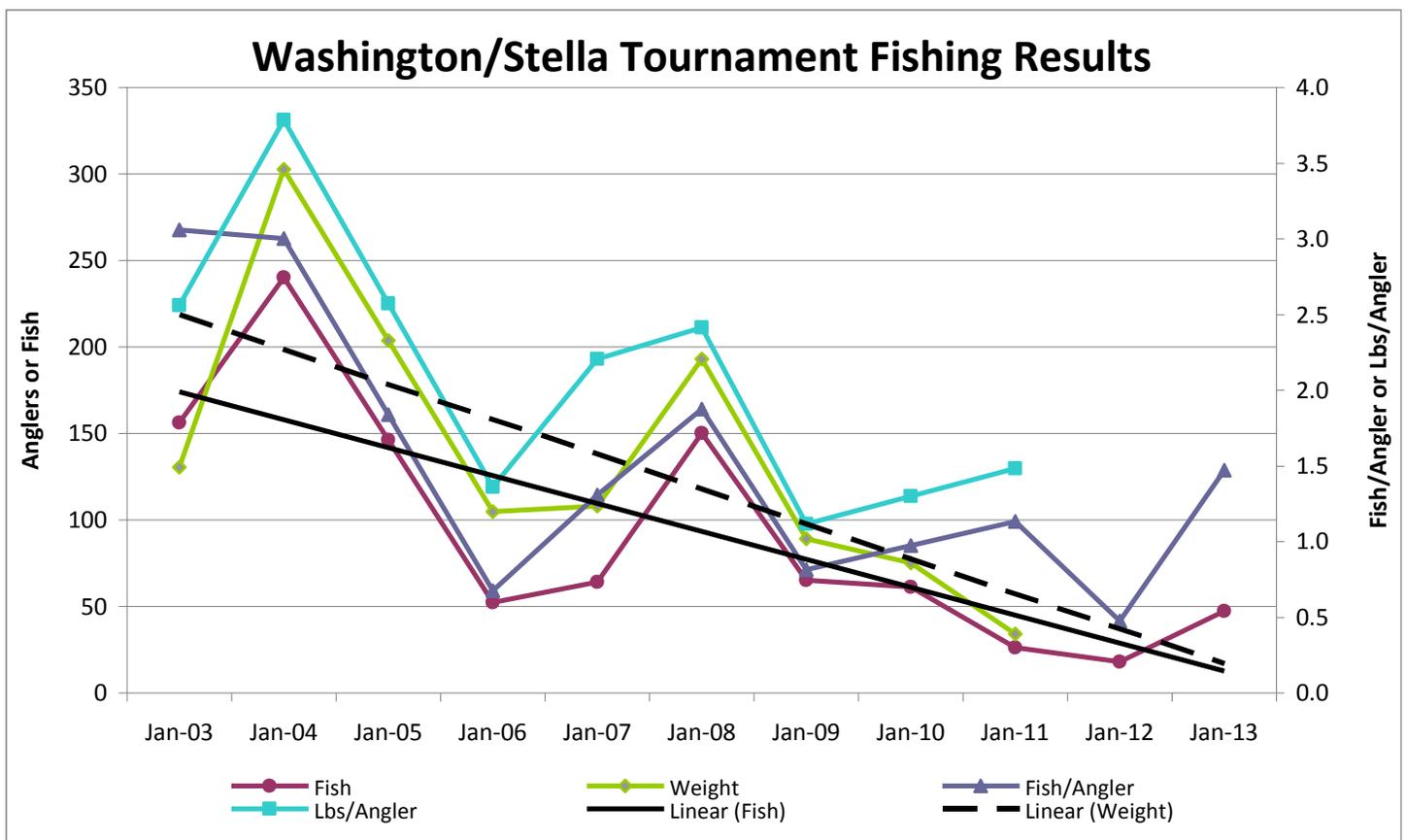
The Lake Washington website www.lakewashingtonassn.com now has competition from our neighboring lake. Please be sure to visit Lake Stella’s website www.lakestella.com so you can see what is happening on the waters that flow into Washington. The Lake Washington Facebook now has 46 likes (members). If you are on Facebook, be sure to visit www.facebook.com/LakeWashington and “Like” the page. Once here you can post anything related to the lake, such as a “boat for sale” or a picture of the big fish you caught. Speaking of Facebook, Lake Stella also has a page at www.facebook.com/LakeStellaAssociation if you want to keep on their activities.

Newsletter mailing is schedule to change next year with electronic mailing provided for the summer and fall newsletters to those requesting “email only” on the annual member registration card. Each resident that has provided an email address will always get the link to the newsletter downloaded to the association webpage even if they still want the newsletter by mail. This will reduce the mailing costs for the Lake Association and better provide members what they have requested. Since we don’t print the newsletter in color, the linked web version is best to view photographs, charts, ads, and allows you to click on links noted throughout the newsletter for more information. The spring newsletter will still be mailed to provide all residents with a membership card and return envelope along with the newsletter. Let us know what you think.

CORMORANT/PELICAN IMPACT COMMITTEE

Rick Fernstrom, Ken Klehr, Dean Shaner, George Kraemer, Ray Haugland, Arlan Lovald, Milt Lueneburg, Ron Bubany

There has been very little activity regarding this committee since the last meeting with the DNR on July 2nd of this year. The committee continues to search for avenues in understanding the impact. In August, John Fink received a copy of Washington/Stella fish tournament reports dating back to 2003. When looking at the data below, a trend is apparent that correlates with the DNR fish survey trend. Over the last ten years, the number of fish/angler and lbs/angler have trended downward which parallels the sentiments of many lake residents in the recent Lake Property Survey. This is one more set of data, independent of others already provided, that can be used by the DNR to support the proposed Depredation Order to reduce/maintain cormorant populations. But the DNR will do nothing until they have their own analysis as with Leech Lake and Lake Vermilion. Remember, the DNR has stated repeatedly, “we are the experts.”



Here is a summary of data analysis provided to the DNR by the Cormorant Impact Committee (2011 – present):

- 1) Analysis of DNR fish survey data showing decreased % of fish 0-14 inches for Lake Washington
- 2) Foraging analysis of area lakes surrounding Pigeon Lake in comparison to Leech and Vermilion
- 3) Analysis of cormorant/white pelican supply & demand daily fish consumption impact
- 4) Analysis of DNR/U of M cormorant/white pelican data showing increased % of birds on Pigeon Lake
- 5) Tournament Fishing report data analysis showing decreased % of fish for Washington/Stella (new)
- 6) Lake Washington Property Survey analysis 2013 showing greatest concerns (soon to be released)

Here is a link posted April 12, 2013 by the DNR that is aimed at educating the public about cormorants. <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/birds/doublecrestedcormorant.html> . The "fact sheet" starts by stating:

Historically, the Double-crested Cormorant (DCCO) has been one of the most misunderstood and maligned of all native Minnesota bird species. Since the mid-1800s, they have been accused of being a voracious fish-eating bird and have been clubbed, shot, and had their colonies destroyed. As people raise concerns about cormorants, it is important to sort between fact and fiction so that efforts to manage Minnesota's wildlife and fisheries resources are based on sound science and not on emotion.

The Cormorant Impact Committee was handed a copy of this fact sheet during the July 2nd 2013 meeting with the DNR. The tone of this fact sheet parallels the comments made by the Hutchinson DNR and side steps serious consideration to lake property owner concerns. It is true that the Cormorant Impact Committee gets emotional over this subject but mainly due to the foot dragging/do nothing/no problem DNR response we continue to hear. Nevertheless, the Cormorant Impact Committee continues to sort out the facts and will continue to apply sound logic using actual data/analysis as listed above.

At the close of the July 2nd 2013 meeting at the Hutchinson DNR office, the DNR committed to following-up with a plan that better aligns the DNR involvement with the growing cormorant problem and area lake resident concerns. Three months have passed and we received a response that the DNR plans to have a meeting they committed to towards the end of November to be facilitated by Grant Wilson from the DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife. Grant will likely be contacting us to set the meeting up and we look forward to a healthy group discussion followed by progress toward remediating the Pigeon Lake cormorant population problems.

www.dasselcovenant.org 320.275.3315

Evangelical Covenant Church

301 Lake St. Dassel MN
(From Hwy 12 Turn at Mushroom Bldg & Go North on Hwy 4)

A Chance to find...

Biblical Teaching
by Pastor Keith Carlson

Music
Blended worship

Fellowship
Adult Bible Studies,
Youth Group, Awana

In response to the call of God and in unity with the whole Church, the purpose of the Evangelical Covenant Church is to make known the good news of saving faith in Jesus Christ, to encourage a Christ like life among its congregations and their members, and to carry out Christ's redeeming work of love, mercy, and justice in the world.



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