



Lake Washington Improvement Association

PO Box 68 Dassel, MN 55325

www.lakewashingtonassn.com

Email: info@lakewashingtonassn.com

Spring '12 Newsletter

END OF THE DOCK

Ken Klehr, President

I would like to welcome new board members Tom Hauer, Aquatic Invasive Species Committee and Mike and Sandy Wosmek, Shoreline Captains Committee. They are involved with two of the more active committees. On the other side of the coin Milt Lueneburg has given up his position on the board. Milt was very energetic on the board serving on several committees. He was very instrumental 2 years ago in getting the channel between Stella and Lake Washington cleaned out at no cost to the Lake Association. Also, he was and will continue to be involved with the Invasive Species Committee. This committee, biweekly during the summer, is monitoring for Eurasian water milfoil growth. Thanks for all the support Milt.

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, May 5th, 2012**. This is the date for the **Annual Meeting**. It will be at the Dassel Rod and Gun Club with social hour starting at 5PM and pork chop dinner starting at 6PM. See Social Committee section for details. Need experienced grillers, also willing to teach. If interested be at the Dassel Rod and Gun Club a little after 4PM.

I would like to acknowledge Rick Fernstrom for the outstanding job he has done to address the overpopulation of Double Crested Cormorants and American White Pelicans nesting at the Pigeon Lake Rookery. He is working with several groups, including the DNR, on this issue. This will be a real challenge for Rick but one I know he is up to. For current status on this objective see Cormorant/Pelican Impact Committee section.

To get a better understanding of membership thoughts, priorities, ideas and concerns, Steve Ullom is putting together a **Membership Survey Committee**. He is looking for volunteers. If you are interested, give Steve a call (612-298-1419) or any board member.

Preventing the spread of invasive species is an important responsibility for all Minnesotans, including lake service providers. Lake service providers are individuals or businesses who install or remove water-related equipment such as boats, docks, boat lifts or structures from waters of the state. State law now requires them to obtain a DNR permit. The DNR will implement and enforce the new requirement during the 2012 open water season. All service providers must complete invasive species training and pass an examination in order to get a permit. To do your part, when needing a lake service provider, make sure they have obtained the necessary permit. Those service providers with a permit can be seen at www.dnr.state.mn.us/lsp/index.html.

I was told to keep my section short, you know how well I listen, so I will conclude by saying thank you to all the members who support our efforts to protect and preserve Lake Washington for our and future generations. If you are not a member consider joining via enclosed membership card.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

John Fink, Kim Winter

Annual Meeting Pork Chop Dinner --- Dassel Rod & Gun Club ---- Saturday May 5th, 2012
Social Hour 5-6 pm, Dinner 6 pm, Program & Meat Raffle 6:30 pm

Free Grilled Pork Chops, Potato Salad, Bean & Hamburger Casserole, Potato Chips, Bread, Coffee, Cool Aid & Brownies
Dassel Rod & Gun Club will be selling **POP ONLY**. If you want an alcoholic beverage, please **BRING YOUR OWN**.

SAVE THE DATE August 4th, 2012 for the Pot Luck Dinner.

FINANCE / FUND RAISING COMMITTEE

Lyle Walker

Financial activity has been minimal since the end of the season last fall. We did receive in November, the \$4,000 grant from Meeker County, for which we had applied. Financial activity will pick up soon when the 2012-13 membership renewals come in. We are anticipating strong membership support as we go into this season.

Total Association funds at March 31, 2012 are \$107,500

COOKBOOKS

Cathy Klehr, Jenna O'Brien

Lake Washington cookbooks are NOW available for **\$10**. At this reduced price they are going fast. To purchase a cookbook, contact Cathy @ 320-626-2056, Jenna @ 320-275-4728 or go to info@lakewashingtonassn.com and we can get a copy to you.

SHORELINE CAPTAINS/MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Cathy Klehr, Rick Johnson, Sandy Wosmek, Mike Wosmek

Your membership to Lake Washington Improvement Association is needed to continually maintain the quality and beauty of our lake. Please take time to fill out the enclosed Membership Registration Form and return in the envelope provided.

We currently have Shoreline Captain vacancies for several areas around the lake. If you are interested in volunteering your time, contact us via e-mail or call any board member for info on how you can help.

Please contact us at info@lakewashingtonassn.com if you have any changes in your address, phone number, e-mail or any other info we should know about. We are continually working on keeping our mailing list accurate so we can keep you informed.

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INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Steve Grotbo, Pat Hanson, Tom Hauer, Milt Lueneburg, Bill Ooley, Ken Klehr, Kim Winter

Attended the 2012 MN AIS Symposium March 19th & 20th which covered the latest research on aquatic invasive species (AIS) management and the policy and legal implications of the approaches available today. Speakers included scientist, lawyers, professors, biologists, water shed districts managers, and DNR specialist, covering topic such as invasive aquatic plant control, selective control using herbicides, plant/fish interactions, non chemical plant control, research, status of control methods, impact on tourism and legal and policy issues regarding AIS management. It was well attended. In addition was able to meet and discuss with attendees common lake issues.

The AIS Symposium was held within a couple blocks of the State Capitol. This being an election year senators and representatives stop in covering current and past legislation. It seemed there is a high priority at the State Capitol to appropriate resources and funding to management and control AIS such as zebra mussels, Asian carp, Eurasian water milfoil, curly-leaf pondweed to name a few. Some examples given were hiring an additional 150 DNR public landing boat inspectors, purchasing 20 additional high pressurized boat/trailer spraying equipment, and doubling 2012 grant money to \$1.3 million for treatment of AIS. The next time you see your State Senator or Representative thank them for the support in protecting and preserve Lake Washington making them aware addition resources and funding is needed for this valuable resource.

Now back to earth. We have been working closely with the DNR to finalize the Lake Washington Vegetation Management Plan, which has been a work in process for over two years. Political wheels turn slowly. But with respect to managing Eurasian water milfoil, we will continue our strategy to chemically treat 70 acres on a rotational bases around the lake. A permit has been submitted to the DNR to treat 70 acres along with a grant/funding request (approx. \$10,500). Both the permitting and funding procedure has been simplified this year. Time will tell how effective this new procedure is.

One last point, this year the DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Group will be conducting two point intercept vegetation assessment in Lake Washington, one in May the other in August. This assessment defines vegetation types and quantities in our lake. It will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the 2011 and 2012 chemical treatments of 70 acres of Eurasian water milfoil along with impact on native vegetation. The vegetation assessment is a major undertaking. A special thanks to DNR Invasive Species Specialist Nike Brown and Joe Eisterhold.

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COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Rick Fernstrom, Steve Ullom

During the late fall and winter months, the Hutchinson DNR facilitates a discussion group the 2nd Tuesday of every month called Avid Anglers. The group consists of local anglers in McLeod and Meeker County and often attended by LWIA board members. The group meets informally to have open discussion about area lake issues, conditions, events, concerns, etc.. The DNR also uses this venue to table internal agenda items. The hot topic this season was the need to raise license fees to increase funding to the DNR as they consistently laments how they are understaffed, losing resources, and not adequately staffed. Recommendations were made to the DNR to ask for volunteers and/or contract temporary employees during peak activity periods. The DNR explained this would not work as volunteers are not consistent enough to make a significant impact and temp employees create a conflict with union employees. Do you see the contradiction? The DNR needs help but only under their conditions by increasing license fees to support more internal resources. Besides, public assistance/outside assistance would inevitably cloud or fragment the very control they wield when we, the customer, ask for help. Can you imagine a volunteer from our Invasive Species or Cormorant committee participating in the daily DNR activity?

This is the third year of the Meeker County Crime Alert communication process in collaboration with the Meeker County Sheriff's Office. Since our last newsletter in the fall of 2011, there were three crime alerts issued by the Sheriff's office:

1/19/2012 Burglary - Home burglary on the south side of Lake Stella
1/24/2012 Suspicious Activity – Drug and felony warrant arrests on the south side of Lake Stella
3/25/2012 Burglary - Home burglary on the south side of Lake Stella

The mass email directory on the Lake Washington website was recently updated and all residents with registered email addresses that requested to receive Meeker County Crime Alerts should have received the 3/25/2012 alert. If you did not and wish to be on the Meeker County Crime Alert program, please respond to info@lakewashingtonassn.com with your email address. Special thanks to Mike Engel for updating the LWIA website resident directory!! For your personal or business internet solutions, please contact **Mike Engel, ADimation.com, LLC** mike@adimation.com, <http://www.adimation.com>.

Please go to www.lakewashingtonassn.com and give your feedback either via email or through a board member. All Board Meeting minutes and past Newsletters are archived on the website. Contact information is also available for all board members should you have questions or information.



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CORMORANT/PELICAN IMPACT COMMITTEE

Milt Lueneburg, Arlan Lovald, Rick Fernstrom

On Monday September 19th, a letter was mailed to area politicians requesting support in controlling the rising cormorant populations and impact on Lake Washington bait and game fish. We received responses from Senator Scott Newman and Representative Dean Urdahl supporting the LWIA request for the DNR to meet and continue discussing concerns. No response was received from Governor Mark Dayton, Senator Amy Klobuchar, Congressman Collin Peterson, or Senator Al Franken. A meeting was held on December 19, 2011 to cover the LWIA position on cormorants and pelicans. This meeting was attended by six DNR representatives from St Paul, New Ulm, Hutchinson, a Federal Wildlife Biologist and a Staff Writer for the Herald Journal. The lake side was represented by Ken Klehr, John Fink, Dean Shaner, Rick Fernstrom from Lake Washington, Marv Haugen from Belle Lake, and George Kraemer from Collinwood Lake. Despite the evidence presented, the DNR refuses to recognize there is a depletion of fish due to the increased cormorant population. To see the:

Full LWIA presentation, go to: <http://www.lakewashingtonassn.com/pdfs/CormorantImpactMtg2.pdf>

DNR response letter, go to: <http://www.lakewashingtonassn.com/pdfs/DNRFisheriesResponse29Feb12.pdf>

LWIA response to the DNR, go to: <http://www.lakewashingtonassn.com/pdfs/LWIAResponseDNR27Mar12.pdf>

Our position is to keep the pressure on the DNR and advocate for a reduction in the cormorant population. As noted in the DNR response letter, the next Lake Washington fish survey has been moved up to 2012 from 2014 as a result of our concerns. This information will show any changes in fish population since the last fish survey in 2008. Efforts are also underway to spread the word/educate other lake association to further increase awareness and pressure for action.

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



Linda Aalderks, Kyle Wendling, Jim Wendling*, Ronda Matthias*

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