



Lake Washington Improvement Association  
PO Box 68 Dassel, MN 55325  
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## Summer '13 Newsletter

### **END OF THE DOCK**

Ken Klehr, President

I attended a meeting on July 2nd at the DNR Hutchinson Facility. This meeting was one of many set up by Rick Fernstrom to address the exploding cormorant population, largest in the state, on Pigeon Island. At times the meeting became heated and frustrating with the DNR's theme throughout "**We don't have a cormorant problem**" along with not having the resources available to adequately address this increasing cormorant population. Rick Fernstrom, Cormorant/Pelican Impact Committee, using DNR data, presented information refuting all the DNR's Fisheries claims. For complete details see Rick's article under Cormorant/Pelican Impact Committee. Another meeting is being set up but as we go forward and attempt to address the cormorant population explosion, a more cooperative attitude needs to surface.

On a positive side the Pot Luck Dinner will be Saturday, August 3rd starting at 5 PM held at the Dassel Rod & Gun Club. See Social Committee section for details. With John Fink heading up this committee, you know the food will be fantastic. Look forward to the great food and seeing you there.

With all the information in this newsletter I will keep my section short other than to thank you for your support and financial assistance over the years. Without it we wouldn't be able to continue to focus on protecting and preserving Lake Washington for our and future generations. If you are not a member please show your backing by becoming a member.

See you on the Lake!

### **SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

Skip Sustacek, Mike & Sandy Wosmek, John Fink

POT LUCK Dinner, Dassel Rod & Gun Club, NE side –Lake Washington

SATURDAY AUGUST 3rd, 2013 --- 5:00 pm Social, 6:00 pm Dinner, 6:45 pm Program & Prizes

LWIA will supply Sloppy Joe meat & Buns, please bring a SALAD, SIDE DISH or a DESSERT to share

Bring your own plates & silverware, and adult beverages. Coffee & lemonade will be provided.

Dassel Rod & Gun Club will sell pop.

### **FINANCE / FUND RAISING COMMITTEE**

Lyle Walker

Memberships for 2013 received through June 30 number 205, generating \$10,250 in revenue for the Lake Association. Current memberships are only 12 fewer than the final total for 2012, so hopefully we will see an increase in memberships by the end of the season. There are no unpaid bills on hand and total funds at June 30 total \$113,295.

## **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](mailto:info@lakewashingtonassn.com) and we can get a copy to you.

## **SHORELINE CAPTAINS/MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Cathy Klehr, Rick Johnson, Sandy Wosmek, Mike Wosmek

Thanks to all who have renewed their membership. Without your support of our association we would not be able to maintain the quality and beauty of our lake. If you have not yet sent in your dues, you can still do so. Send a check for \$50 to LWIA, Box 68, Dassel, MN 55325.

Thank you to our Shoreline Captains who are in the process of handing out and collecting the Property Owners Survey. These captains are volunteers who have put a lot of their time and effort into this project which will benefit us all by giving us your input on future lake association directions. When you see them, let them know they are doing a good job. Special recognition to Sheryl Faust and Milt Lueneburg for getting 100% returns.

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

# **DARWIN MUNICIPAL LIQUOR STORE**



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## **INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE REPORT**

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

In the Spring Newsletter we described our plan to treat approximately 190 acres of Lake Washington in 2013. This acreage is located in two areas in the southwest corner of the lake and a third (retreatment) area in the northeast corner. A map of the specific areas was included with the article.

Since the Spring Newsletter was published, your committee has conducted two surveys of the planned areas to confirm the need for treatment, and also to confirm the actual acreage which should be included. The first survey (Survey 1) was conducted June 13, 2013 and the second (Survey 2) was conducted June 27, 2013.



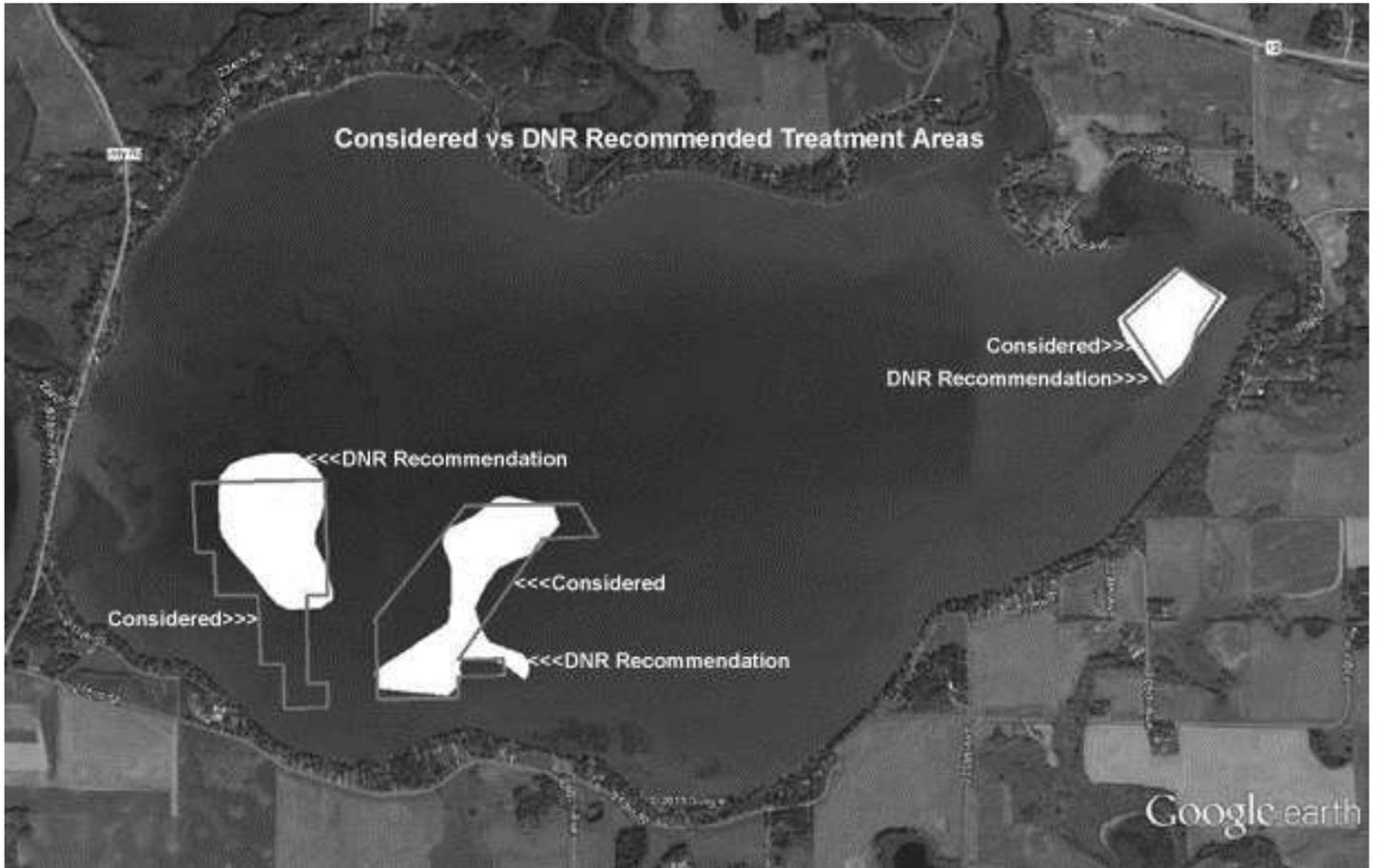
Bill, Milt and Ken assessing a sample.

Perhaps due to the amount of snow coverage this past winter, or the late onset of spring, or both, we found less than expected abundance of milfoil in Survey 1. We decided therefore to conduct another survey, Survey 2, after two weeks to see if there would be significant growth of milfoil during the warmer weather.

Interestingly enough, the findings of Survey 2 revealed very little difference in milfoil abundance from Survey 1. Because of this we decided to postpone treatment until a further evaluation could be performed in another two weeks.

At about the same time, Nick Brown of the DNR conducted a survey of the same areas and concluded that a smaller area than expected should be treated. He sent us maps of the DNR results and they agreed quite closely with the results of our own LWIA surveys. Nick concluded that we should treat only 135 acres rather than the 190 acres previously considered. We would agree with this assessment provided that the milfoil growth doesn't accelerate as we finally reach a period of summer hot weather.

We will wait, therefore, another two weeks and then conduct another survey. In particular we will survey those sections of the lake we originally intended to treat, but are now being considered for exclusion. It is possible we could see an explosion of late growth in those areas and will want to expand the treatment area borders.



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## **COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Steve Ullom, Steve Grotbo, Rick Fernstrom

The LWIA Board would like to thank the Shore Line Captains for distributing the Property Owners Surveys. A special thank you to the property owners that have returned their surveys, we look forward to getting every ones. The Board will be working to achieve our goal of getting at least 70% of the surveys, by doing follow up to properties that have not turned in a survey. We hope to have a preliminary update at the Pot Luck Picnic in August.

A special note to all, with the lake at a very high level we are asking all to be especially aware of no wake areas. Boat traffic can cause considerable damage to shorelines that are already battered by the storms this year.

## **CORMORANT/PELICAN IMPACT COMMITTEE**

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

A meeting was held on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 at the Hutchinson DNR facility to cover the recent development of Lake Vermilion granted federal permission to reduce cormorant populations in order to proactively preserve fish population. The meeting attendance was 18 including four DNR resources, 13 area lake representatives (Washington, Howard, Collinwood, Jennie) and Meeker County Commissioner Mike Housman. The meeting spanned from 6pm to 10pm and covered a variety of cormorant related topics. Edie Everts from the Lake Vermilion Area DNR explained how they obtained permission to reduce cormorants on Lake Vermilion which has 424 pairs of cormorants and 39,000 acres of water as compared to Pigeon Lake's 2334 pairs of cormorants (highest population in Minnesota) and 11,431 acres of feeding water.

Below is a snapshot of data covered at the DNR meeting to show a comparison between Leech Lake, Lake Vermilion, and Pigeon Lake. The "acres per pair" number is a measurement of population density with respect to open water for two adult cormorants to feed. The cormorant committee argued that Lake Vermilion obtained Federal permission to reduce cormorants with 92 acres/pair and the feeding density from Pigeon Lake cormorants is much heavier with only 4.9 acres/pair.

### **Leech Lake 102,947 acres**

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2012</u>
<b>Nesting pairs</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>na</b>
<b>Acres per pair</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>na</b>

### **Lake Vermilion 39,000 acres**

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2012</u>
<b>Nesting pairs</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>424</b>
<b>Acres per pair</b>	<b>1218</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>92</b>

### **Pigeon Lake = 62,764 acres, Open water = 11,431 acres**

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2012</u>
<b>Nesting Pairs</b>	<b>1,503</b>	<b>2,145</b>	<b>2334</b>
<b>Acres per pair</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>4.9</b>

Despite the staggering difference between these areas, Lee Sundmark of the Hutchinson DNR continues to insist area fish populations are healthy and there is no justification to reduce cormorant populations. In support of a strong cormorant population on Pigeon Lake, Lee commented that "fish grow much faster in the warmer region of Pigeon Lake as compared to Lake Vermilion so recovery is much faster." When Rick Fernstrom of Lake Washington asked Lee, "how much faster do

fish grow in this region compared to Lake Vermilion?” he was unable to quantify his “much faster” statement. Lee also stated that “in addition to cormorants, other fish, like northern pike, eat other fish and impact fish populations.” When Randy Nass of Lake Jennie asked Lee, “how much does a northern pike eat per day?” Lee was unable to quantify his “other fish...eat other fish” statement. Lee was urged to get more educated about cormorants and their impact on area lake fish populations. To support this need, Cathy Klehr of Lake Washington gave a preliminary summary of Lake Washington Property Owners Survey being conducted this year which reveals residents are indicating cormorants and milfoil are their two biggest concerns. Lee expressed interest in the lake survey data but cautioned the meeting attendees that “many people on the lake never fish and don’t like cormorants because they are ugly and black.”

In summary, the Lake Vermilion DNR presentation was well received and thoroughly explained the situation while the Hutchinson DNR was poorly prepared and spent most of the available time showing spotty fish survey data that was dated (2005) and had no cohesive theme. The meeting ended with the DNR committing to follow-up with a plan that better aligns their involvement with the growing cormorant problem. The Vermilion Area DNR template of success needs to be embraced by the Hutchinson DNR going forward. More details of this plan are expected shortly.

[www.dasselcovenant.org](http://www.dasselcovenant.org) 320.275.3315

# Evangelical Covenant Church

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