



Lake Washburn Association NEWSLETTER

March 1997

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1997 MEETING DATES

Following is a listing of our meeting dates and times. All director meetings and general meetings are open to all members. All meetings are held at the Town Hall in Outing.

Director Meeting	May 10	8:00 AM
Director Meeting	June 14	8:00 AM
General Meeting	June 14	
	9:00 AM	Coffee
	9:30 AM	Meeting
Director Meeting	July 12	8:00 AM
Director Meeting	August 19	8:00 AM
General Meeting	August 19	
	9:00 AM	Coffee
	9:30 AM	Meeting
Director Meeting	Sept. 13	8:00 AM



Winter in Washburn Lake

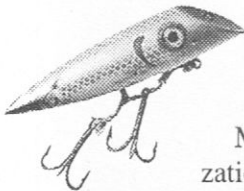
For those of you who are not here in the winter, the scenery is beautiful. The heavy snows cover the trees and the branches bend low. The lake, with its drifts and ice ridges, looks serene. And walking across the lake for the first time is a great experience! The crunch of the snow and the brisk wind make for very invigorating walks.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Pat Behning

As the newly elected president, I look forward to working with the Board of Directors and Officers of the Lake Washburn Association (LWA). Hopefully, I will be able to somewhat fill the shoes of our most recently retired president, John Houston. We all owe him our gratitude for making this association so viable and productive.



In addition to the Board members and Officers, LWA needs you. The larger our membership, the stronger voice we have with the DNR, Cass County, and the state of Minnesota. We need everyone's support to make this organization a successful and effective one.

Enclosed in this mailing is our Lake Washburn Association brochure. This brochure gives you facts about the Association, the lake, board members, and a membership form for 1997. We urge you to use the self-addressed envelope to return your membership form as soon as possible. Thank you for your prompt response.

As a year round resident of Lake Washburn, I have had the privilege of enjoying the winter here. It has been a virtual wonderland, what with the great accumulation of snow, blue skies, and of course the cold and wind. Still, I do look forward to the spring melt and the warm breezes of that season. It is grand to be here for all the changes of the year.

The main purpose of our association is to preserve the pristine quality of Lake Washburn. And to that end, I and all members of the Board need to hear from you when and if issues arise that are of concern. Feel free to contact me (792-5111) or a Board member with any concerns or comments. We look forward to hearing from you. Remember this is your association, and will succeed only with the cooperation of all.

BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

- Marge Anderson -
Camp Portage, 501C
- Pat Behning - President
- Fred Borgwardt - Programs
- Gary Gabel - Buoys
- Mark Hegman - Secretary
- Harold Hegman - Nominating/Auditing
- Rolie Hron - Zoning
- Ralph Lindblad - Sponsors
- Ron Nichols - Adopt A Highway
- Don Peterson - Nominating/Auditing
- John Rask - Buoys/Natural Resources
- Cleone Reiner - Boat Monitor

ELECTIONS HELD

The second general meeting of 1996 was held on August 17. Director reports were given and election of officers/directors was held. New officers are:

- President: Pat Behning
- Vice President: Ron Nichols
- Secretary: Mark Hegman
- Treasurer: Marje Anderson

New directors are:

- Rolie Hron
- John Rask
- Cleone Reiner

Our thanks to the officers/directors who have finished their terms. We appreciate all the time and energy they have given to the Association:

- John Houston (3 years as President)
- Jean Johnson
(2 years as Vice President)
- Jim Goodin (1 year as Treasurer)
- Marje Anderson (2 years as Director)
- Greg Hosch (3 years as Director)
- Jan Hron (3 years as Director)

1997 LWA OFFICERS

Officers:

(all 1 year terms)

- President.....Pat Behning.....218-792-5111.....Same.....West Washburn Road
- Vice President..Ron Nichols.....218-792-5386.....515-278-4459.....Peninsula Road
- Secretary.....Mark Hegman.....218-792-5499.....612-920-2392.....Peninsula Road
- Treasurer....Marje Anderson.....218-792-5317.....612-241-8333.....Eastburn Road

Directors:

- Gary Gabel 1 year.....218-792-5709.....515-289-2265.....Peninsula Road
- Ralph Lindblad 1 year.....218-792-5421.....612-829-5823.....Fehr's Road
- Don Peterson 1 year.....218-792-5257.....Same.....Longwood Point
- Fred Borgwardt 2 year.....218-792-5740.....Same.....Longwood Point
- Harold Hegman 2 year.....218-792-5442.....Same.....Plummer Point
- Rolie Hron..... 3 year.....218-792-5517.....612-934-8050.....Peninsula Road
- John Rask..... 3 year.....218-792-5390.....Same.....Longwood Point
- Cleone Riener....3 year.....None.....612-483-4497.....Fehr's Road



MEMBERSHIP RESULTS

YOU did great!! Our 1996 membership total was the very best ever for our Association. Out of 326 property owners, we had 228 who became members in 1996. That is 69% membership, a bit short of our goal of 75% (245 members), but it shows that Lake Washburn residents care about their lake and its future.

Membership records were kept of total membership and membership by road or area. These records show the following:

Road/Area	Members 1996	Property Owners	Non Members
Birch Bay/Bear Paw/Hwy 48	15 (51%)	29	14
Eastburn Road	21 (56%)	37	16
Fehr's Road/Lois Lane Rd	46 (67%)	68	22
Longwood Point	31 (70%)	44	13
Peninsula Road	83 (78%)	106	23
Plummer's Point	13 (68%)	19	6
West Washburn Rd	19 (82%)	23	4
Total	228 (69%)	326	98

We thank each and everyone of you who joined our Association in 1996 and hope that you will continue in 1997. If you are one of the 98 (of which 63 have not been members since 1988 or never) who did not join last year, we wish you would consider joining us this year.

Those joining for 1996 whose names were not in the August newsletter are:

- Karen Barfus
- Rolland/Ruth Barron
- Dell Bourke, Jr.
- Roger, Randy, Ramon Buck
- Robert Doebler
- Tom/Mary Jo Fisch
- Mose/Robin Henney
- Dale/Colleen Hovind
- Doug/Debbie Kasel
- Ken/June Kunkel
- Donald/Della Lukanen
- Frank/Mary Ann Thompson
- Larry/Susan Zilverberg

AUGUST 17 MEETING

Our third annual spaghetti dinner was held prior to the general meeting on August 17, 1996. About 85 members attend the dinner and meeting.

Bill Korman, Chairperson of Crooked Lake Township and Grant Waterhouse, Chairperson of Thunder Lake Township spoke. In a question and answer forum, topics discussed were plans for Cass County to rename all roads, giving everyone new road and numbers (to comply with the enhanced 911 system); roads and road repair and upkeep; and vandalism.

Our thanks to Mr. Korman and Mr. Waterhouse for sharing this information with us.

A special thanks to Jan Hron for organizing the dinner the past three years, to Jerry Ballard for cooking the spaghetti, and to the directors/officers and spouses for helping with the preparing, setup, and cleanup.

It was a great opportunity for an evening of fellowship with other Lake Washburn property owners.



BUOYS

As an Association, we assist the Cass County Sheriff's Department by putting in and removing the many buoys on Lake Washburn. These buoys help insure the safety of all of us as we boat on the lake.

A special thanks to the following who helped this past year:

- Jerry Abts, Jim Anderson, Howard Dutton, John Houston, Gene Kuehn, Dan Laasko, Ken Levoir, Hubert Lindblad, Richard Nelles, Ed Pietrowski, Jack Schuller, Terry Whitely, and Jim Zerwas.

Anyone wishing to help in the placement/removing of the buoys should contact Jon Rask or Gary Gabel, directors in charge of the buoy program.

TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

If you are a resident of Crooked Lake Township and have questions regarding the township, following is a list of names and phone numbers of the Board of Supervisors.

- GERALD BAIER
Road Supervisor.....792-5296
- FRED BORGWARDT
Noxious Weed Inspector.....792-5740
- CHUCK FAIRBANKS
Assistant Road Supervisor....792-5336
- ROGER FANCHER.....792-5103
- PAT FAUL
Treasurer.....792-5110
- BILL KORMAN
Chairman.....792-5144
- GLEN MECHELKE
Clerk.....792-5247
- DAYTON PAULSON
Road Lead.....792-5589

If you wish to reserve the Town Hall, contact Kris Lang, 792-2666 (days), 792-5548 (evenings).

ADOPT A HIGHWAY

Thank you to Fred Chinquist who headed the Adopt-A-Highway program this past year. Members cleaned up the ditches on Highway 48 from Hwy 6 to the end of the blacktop on Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day weekends. Those who participated in the program include Jan Johnson, Jean Johnson, Gerald Ballard, Tom and Susan Ballard, Richard and Diana Huss, Ed Pietrowski and John Houston. Thanks to all those listed and to anyone else who helped but whose name was missed.

If you would like to participate in this program, meet at 9:00 AM on the Saturday of the above mentioned weekends at the campground at the south end of the lake. It takes about 1 to 1 1/2 hours, depending on the number of volunteers. Ron Nichols is in charge of the Adopt-A-Highway Program this year.



THANK YOU THANK YOU

We want to thank everyone who has participated in boat monitoring, road cleanup, working with buoys, submitting items for the newsletter, attending meetings...you are what makes our association succeed.

If in listing names for specific programs, we missed you, we apologize. Please let us know so we can add your name to the list in our next newsletter.

Again, thanks to everyone who is so willing to help in our mission to work and make every effort to ensure that this beautiful lake (Lake Washburn) and its environment will survive to be enjoyed by those generations which follow us.

TRIVIA TIME!

All the following are to be answered true or false. Answers can be found elsewhere in the newsletter.

1. Little northern pike have a better temperature tolerance in the summer than huge northern pike.
2. Largemouth bass are probably more susceptible to a surface lure in shallow water in the spring than any other time of the year.
3. Most largemouth bass are caught in 15 feet of water or shallower.
4. More people fish for walleye in the US than any other sport fish.
5. A weedless spoon is a deadly bait on largemouth bass.
6. A jig has universal appeal on all types of gamefish.
7. Northern pike enjoy a varied diet during their adult life.
8. Round bodied crankbaits make for successful walleye fishing.

BOAT MONITORING

Lake Washburn Association monitors the boats coming into and out of Lake Washburn on the three major weekends of the summer - Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day.

According to a recent newspaper article, the Highway Department stopped over 100 vehicles pulling boats and found that over 50% had some sort of weed on the boat. It is this carelessness that allows the spread of Eurasian Milfoil. Please take a few minutes and check your boat when you take it out of ANY lake, especially a lake that is infected with an exotic weed such as Eurasian Milfoil.

If you would like to help with the monitoring on any of the above weekends, please contact Cleone Reiner who is the Director responsible for the Boat Monitoring program.

FISH CONTAMINATION

This past summer the DNR set three gill nets in Lake Washburn to sample northern pike for the US EPA Laboratory in Duluth. The reason for the samples was for mercury analysis to determine if there has been any change in fish flesh concentrations since the last analysis.

Fourteen northern pike, between 15-25 inches were caught in the nets. The results will be released by the EPA Laboratory in Duluth when the data is ready.

NEWS WANTED

Have an article you think others may enjoy? Got a great picture of a Lake Washburn activity? Or maybe a written memory of this area? Please send your contributions to:

Lake Washburn Newsletter
Box 26, Outing, MN 56662.

We are looking for your input!
NEWSLETTER EDITOR.....Pat Behning
NEWSLETTER WRITER.....Alvis Houston
NEWSLETTER LAYOUT & GRAPHICS
Aldo J. Abelleira

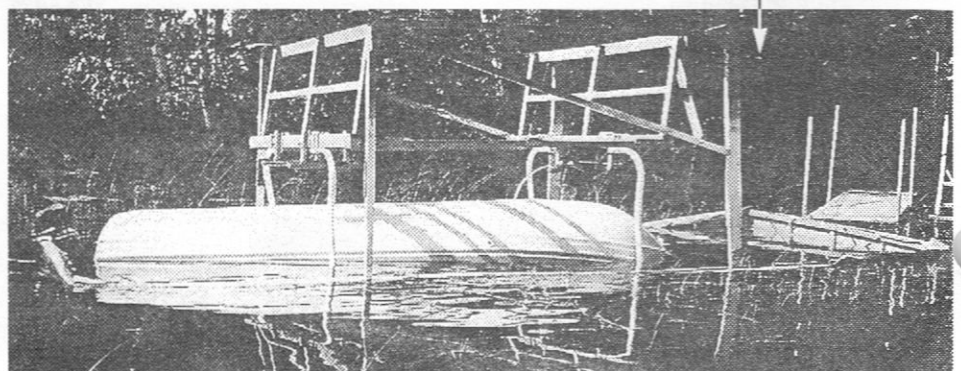
SAVE A TREE

Tired of junk mail? Send for a free "Save a Tree Kit" which contains postcards that will remove your name from junk mailing lists. The kit also includes environmentally friendly information, such as how to get free garden seeds, and free environmentally safe cleaning products.

To get a kit, send a legal sized, self addressed stamped envelope to: How To Save (Tree Kit), PO Box 818, Palm Harbor, FL, 34682.

STORM DAMAGE

In early August a strong storm went through the Lake Washburn area. The Art Burgoyne property, on West Washburn Road, was hit hard. The boat lift, complete with fishing boat, was lifted out of the water and dropped upside down more than 100 feet north of its normal spot. The dock was flipped over and a pile went through the paddle boat. The pontoon also suffered damage. Oddly enough, the trampoline on the shore was untouched. Damage was in the thousands.





501C

WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU AND LAKE WASHBURN ASSOCIATION

By Marje Anderson

Most of the successful and established Lake Associations are incorporated and either have tax deductible status or are applying for it. What does this mean, and how does it affect all of us who have the opportunity to be a member of the Lake Washburn Association?

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Lake Washburn Association legally became incorporated in the State of Minnesota on October 20, 1989, as a non-profit organization, dedicated to maintaining a high quality of water, the aesthetic qualities of the shoreline, assisting the Sheriff in maintaining a system of navigational buoys, and providing educational materials to the Association membership. The elected Officers and Directors have worked diligently since 1989 to fulfill the Mission of the Association and to increase our membership from less than 100 to the 227 this last year. This represents 70% of our property owners. We hope to increase this percentage in the coming year. Our largest expense is the newsletters which are mailed each year to all property owners on the lake and to those who have legal access to the lake.

We donate money each year to the Remer Ambulance, the Outing Fire Department and the Outing EMT. We also have offered a scholarship for a youth to attend the Deep Portage Aquatic Youth Camp each year. We have established a special Ecological/Exotic Species Fund, which we add to each year, to use if Lake Washburn should become one of the many lakes in Minnesota with an Exotic Species program. None of our Officers and Directors receive compensation for the work they do. We encourage all of our members to help with our Highway 48 cleanup and monitoring of the boat ramp programs.

APPLICATION/APPROVAL

In 1993 work was begun on revising our by-laws so that we might qualify for tax deductible status. Our present by-laws were approved by the general membership at the General Meeting on August 13, 1994. Work was immediately begun to complete the government paper work to qualify for tax deductible status.

A multitude of IRS forms (including financial statements from 1989 thru 1995) were completed. We were also asked to send a copy of our Certificate of Incorporation from the State of Minnesota, a copy of our by-laws of 1994, newsletters and a short history of the previous association called "The Lake Washburn Sportsman's Club" which had never been incorporated. Finally, after much communication, we received notification in June, 1996, that our application had been approved.

RESULTS/REQUIREMENTS

According to the Advance Ruling of the IRS Code 509(a), we will be treated as a publicly supported organization, and not as a private foundation. This advance ruling period began on February 6, 1995, and ends on June 30, 1999. During this period of time the Lake Washburn Association must remain a publicly supported organization. Grantors and contributors may rely on our being exempt from Federal Income Tax under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in section 501(c)(3). Any monetary dues, gifts or contributions from local businesses will be tax deductible.

We have some restrictions to assure our continued exemption which should not create any problems. We must remain a publicly supported organization. We must live up to the purposes as stated in our by-laws. We must keep financial records to show that our funds are used only for these purposes. Any funds which we distribute to other organizations must be used for appropriate purposes. If we distribute funds to any individual, we must keep case histories showing the recipients' names, addresses, purposes of awards, manner of selection, and relationship (if any) to members, officers, trustees or donors of funds to us. Ninety days after June 30, 1999, we must again declare that we are still a publicly supported organization and are living up to our

stated by-laws. If we change our source of support, our purposes, character or method of operation, or amend our by-laws, we must notify the IRS to keep them up to date and assure our continued exemption.

Your yearly dues, or any additional donation you wish to give, may be listed on your income tax forms along with Red Cross, your church, or any other charity to which you normally give. Give generously!! You may be assured that these funds will be used for the benefit of Lake Washburn.

PUSSYWILLOWS

Pussywillows may grow as small shrubs with reddish stems or as small trees, up to ten feet high with gray trunks. While many plants carry both male and female reproductive parts, pussywillows are woody plants that grow only as males or females.

Pussywillow buds begin to appear in mid-April. The soft, silvery and furry bud (the soft gray tuft) is actually a dense cluster of male flowers. As they age, they produce pollen, which makes them look yellow.

Female catkins, which appear later, are green, drooping, flower clusters designed to catch the pollen that the wind carries from the male plant.

Pussywillows work well in dry flower arrangements. If cut and put in water, the buds will expand and fall off the branch.

(Information from Do North, May, 1996)

DID YOU KNOW....

On Thursday, November 14, 1996, Lake Washburn had a skin of ice over the entire lake. It was one of the earliest lake freezes remembered. However, on November 15-18 we had rain, sleet, snow, wind and warm temperatures so the ice disappeared except along shorelines and sheltered bays. Normal freeze-up is around Thanksgiving.



1996 DNR STOCKING

According to a letter received from Tim Brastrup, Area Fisheries Supervisor, DNR, the walleye stocking aspect of the Washburn Lake Management Plan has been changed to alternate year walleye fry stocking at a rate of 1,122,000 fry. Walleye fry were not stocked in 1996 but will be stocked in 1997 and every other year following.

The reason for this change is that natural reproduction is apparently the main contributor to the walleye population according to DNR lake surveys. Fry stocking and fingerling stocking both contribute low, but equally to the walleye fishery. The gap between years is meant to reduce competition with naturally reproduced walleyes and to reduce predation on the primary prey species, yellow perch.

Last stocking, according to Lake Washburn Association records, was done in 1994.

DNR STOCKING

One of the most common asked question the state fisheries managers get is "How can I get the DNR to stock my lake?"

Stocking today is done far more prudently than before. Today a fisheries manager needs to consider cost-effectiveness and the effects of stocking on the lakes's other fish populations before sending in the hatchery produce.

Before stocking a lake, the managers first check the lakes fisheries management plan. Here they have recorded the history of the lake's fishing, surveys and stocking.

Throughout the state, 2500 lakes receive fish raised in state hatcheries. A recent survey by the U of M on walleye stocking showed that stocking artificial walleye lakes – those with little or no natural walleye reproduction – has increased walleye numbers. But it also showed that

stocking walleyes in lakes with natural walleyes - those with good natural reproduction – is largely a waste of time and angler license dollars.

Stocking doesn't work in some lakes because nature has already decided what type of fish work best in particular waters. Bass-panfish lakes, for example, often don't produce many walleyes because the habitat walleyes need to reproduce isn't there.

So why does the DNR decided that stocking certain lakes is not a good idea. Some reasons...

–It's redundant. Many lakes already have healthy natural walleye populations.

–It wastes money. After many years of stocking with poor results, managers may decide the money would be better spent on other ways of improving fishing.

–It can disrupt native fish communities. In some lakes, biologists believe stocking can actually make fishing worse than before as adding walleyes can disturb the other fish communities.

However, just because the DNR decides not to stock a lake doesn't mean they've given up on the lake. Fisheries managers have other ways to improve game fish angling, such as rehabilitating lakes to remove carp, installing lake aeration systems, establishing experimental regulations for increasing lunker fish, reestablishing native aquatic plants and improving the health of the lake's watershed.

Stocking is a good tool for improving fishing, but it's not always the best one in the toolbox for fixing the fishing woes of many Minnesota lakes.

(Information from Fish & Wildlife Today, Summer, 1996)

DID YOU KNOW...

Weekends account for 63% of alcohol-related crashes in Minnesota. Saturday has the highest number of accidents followed by Sunday and Friday. Please drive responsibly when you are coming and going from the lake...we want you with us for a long time.

SPRING PEEPERS

What is a spring peeper...it's a frog! This is a tiny, tan, dark brown or gray species about 3/4 to 1 1/4" long that lives chiefly in our area woodlands.

Peepers have a dark RXS on the backs, which makes it easier to identify them. In Minnesota peepers emerge in early April from under the leaf litter where they've spent the winter hibernating. Their song is a high-pitched peep, which in large numbers sounds like sleigh bells.

It's commonly thought that peepers are the first kind of frog to be heard in the spring but that's not so. The western chorus frog and the wood frog start earlier. As with other frogs, the peepers doing the singing are males calling to attract females. Breeding begins shortly after the frogs come out of hibernation and last through late May. After mating, females lay anywhere from 800-1000 eggs, which are anchored to aquatic vegetation.

(Information from Do North, May, 1996)





JUST WHAT IS FISH HABITAT?

By Lee Kernen, Director of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Fisheries Management

A destructive summer thunderstorm swept through Madison last year and early the next morning you could hear the roar of chainsaws all over the neighborhood as people cleaned up their yards. It was amazing to see the progress. By late afternoon, huge brush piles lined the streets and even shredded green leaves were raked up. The city was almost back to normal. Such pride in homes and property is great to see, but it doesn't do well when applied to where fish and wildlife live.

Picture a wilderness lake in your mind and what do you see? Numerous logs lie along the shore with their craggy limbs all green and mossy. Huge cedar trees lean way out over the water, defying gravity and casting a shadow on the water. Along the shore grows a bed of bulrush, their pencil-sized stems marching right up the shore. Lily pads grow nearby and under the surface lie unseen beds of aquatic vegetation, their bright green swirls hiding the soft muck bottom.

The whole scene fairly reeks of fish - a large northern pike lives under the log near the cedar. A school of perch dart under the lily pads, Farther up near the bank, about 400 newly hatched crappies, about 1" long, live in less than 3" of water among the bulrush. A pack of 6" largemouth bass lurks nearby waiting for one of the nearly transparent fingerlings to venture out beyond the cover of the bulrush.

All these places where fish live are called HABITAT. The logs, the shady spot under the cedar, the bulrush, the underwater weeds, and a thousand other places in the lake, provide food and hiding spots for two dozen different kinds of fish, several species of frogs and numerous kinds of aquatic insects.

Now let's take a look at many of our lakes here. All the logs have been pulled out long ago because they might damage a propeller on an outboard motor. The leaning cedars are gone and replaced with a white dock. The aquatic vegetation has been pulled out and the mucky bottom covered with sand to make a beach. Very little of anything can live on, or in sand. The bulrush is gone and a concrete wall extends two feet out in the lake. No crappies live here because they can't hide from the bass - the bass are gone too.

The lakeshore looks nice and neat, just like our pretty cities, but nature has suffered fiercely. Many of these lakes have a serious lack of habitat needed by fish during the first few weeks of their life. Just as city wildlife needs a refuge or park to hide in, many of our lakes could use some "wild shoreline" where limbs and logs lie in the water; where mucky bottoms grow dragonfly nymphs and where calm, shallow water only inches deep warms quickly in the sunshine, providing a safe sanctuary for all kinds of fragile creatures.

That is what fish managers mean by good habitat. Please think about that the next time you have an urge to clear the aquatic vegetation or alter the shoreline in front of your lakeshore home. And when the next tree falls in the lake off your property, maybe you could leave the chainsaw in the garage?

(Editor note: Harlan Fierstine, Area Fisheries Supervisor for DNR in Walker, sent us this article. He states "Many lake association members ask me what they can do to improve fishing. In this area of Minnesota, the most important action that a lakeshore owner can do to improve/maintain fishing is to minimize/eliminate destruction of fish habitat. He believes the article says it well - it is important to leave our lake's shorelines as "wild" as possible. Lakeshore development is impacting fish habitat.")

HELP NEEDED!

Please add the Lake Washburn Association to your list of change of address information. Our address is Box 26, Outing, MN, 56662. So many times newsletters are returned with the notation that forwarding time has expired. This means we go to the courthouse in Walker, find the new address, and remail the newsletter. We want all property owners to have the newsletter to keep up with changes, suggestions, rules, regulations and happenings at Lake Washburn. This will help us get information to you effectively. Thank you!!

LAKE WASHBURN FEATURED IN TRIBUNE.

The July 31, 1996, issue of the Minneapolis Star Tribune featured Lake Washburn as Lake of the Week. It pictured the lake map with depths and good fishing spots marked.

This article reminded us that DNR Minnesota Bookstore offers more than 5,000 lake depth maps for purchase. A catalog listing, by county is available. You can stop by the store or call/write to request a free catalog or check on the availability of a given lake map.

Each map shows the contour/depths as well as acreage and public access points. Most measure 17"x23" or 23"x34", and can be obtained on standard bond paper or a waterproof paper called teslin. A small selection of laminated lake depth maps and a series of "Hot Spots" waterproof maps are also available.

**For more information or to place an order, call 612-297-3000
Or 1-800-657-3757.**



WATER QUALITY

Some do's and don'ts to improve water quality:

DO:

- Bring your septic system up to code. Inadequate systems are the #1 source of water contamination.
- Use fertilizer sparingly, if at all. Use fertilizer with NO phosphorous content.
- Prevent run-off from roofs, etc., from entering the lake directly by using retaining walls, riprap, hedges, berms, etc.
- Rake brush and leaves AWAY from the lake. If you burn, the fire should be as far from the lake as possible.
- Use liquid laundry detergents and biodegradable soaps.
- Dispose of oil, pesticides, paint and other toxin materials properly.
- Use garbage disposals rarely, if at all.
- When filling a boat engine with gas or oil, use proper equipment to avoid spillage, such as funnel, hose, etc.
- Clean your septic system every two-three years.

DON'T:

- Deposit coffee grounds, grease, disposable diapers, wet strength towels, cigarette butts, etc, into your sewer system.
- Discharge waste from toilets and sinks into disposal system lying in the ground water.
- Apply granular or powdered fertilizer on a dry day. The first rain will wash it into the lake.
- Landscape your yard in a manner which will enhance run-off erosion.
- Have beach fires or burn leaves/brush near the lake unless you plan to remove the ashes immediately after the fire is out.
- Apply chemical treatments for weed removal without preplanning the treatment with the Minnesota DNR and having a professional apply the treatment.
- Discharge hot tubs, oil, chemicals, etc. directly into the lake.



BEARS AND BIRDFEEDERS



Each year the DNR receives numerous calls from home and cabin owners who enjoy attracting birds to their yard but are not happy when a bear visits the bird feeder.

It is suggested that from April 15-October 15 you avoid using the following foods to attract birds: sunflowers, cracked corn, cob corn, suet, peanuts, peanut butter, and hummingbird feeders. If you feel you must use the items listed above, consider suspending the feeder at least 10 feet above the ground at least 8 feet away from poles, trees and other structures with a pulley system. The pulley system will allow for easy refilling. Thistle seed is less attractive to bear than many other common bird foods.

Books from the DNR such as "Landscaping for Wildlife" and "Woodworking for Wildlife" will give you ideas regarding hummingbird gardens, nest boxes, dust bathing sites, bird baths, etc.

Attracting birds to your property is a fun and interesting way to enjoy our natural world. Learning to live with bears is a responsibility of all northern Minnesota residents. Sometimes bears causing problems are relocated or even destroyed,

but only after all other options are exhausted. Once a bear relates humans to food sources, the bear may continue to be a problem.

(From DNR Wildlife Management Program)

LAKE ADVOCATES

Lake Washburn Association has three lake advocates...Jim Anderson (East Lake), John Houston, (North Lake), and Rolie Hron, (West Lake). What is a Lake Advocate?

The mission of the Minnesota Lake Advocate Program is to have someone within a specific water resource community who can provide information to others regarding:

- Where to get needed information
- Shoreland best management practices
- Water monitoring and other lake programs
- Non-regulatory lake management practices
- Regulations and administrative procedures affecting lakeshore property and the lake, as well as the rationale for regulations.

A Lake Advocate is a source of information. Manuals, brochures and training are provided to the advocate. Their role is to become familiar with these materials and provide information to lake shore owners and other lake users. The Lake Advocate is NOT expected, nor empowered, to be an interpreter, consultant, expert, inspector, policeman or mediator, make judgements, decisions or recommendations, visit individual pieces of property or do legwork for government agencies.

This program is to help the general public and lakeshore owners become involved in lake management efforts and provide a better understanding and awareness of government involvement in water resource management issues including land use and watershed planning (County) water resource management (DNR) and water quality (PCA).

Please feel free to contact any of the Lake Washburn Advocates if you have questions or concerns. Phone Numbers are: Jim Anderson 792-5317, John Houston 792-5440, and Rolie Hron 792-5517.

Information from the DNR) for testing, giving a common database that can be shared.

(Information from FOCUS 10,000, September, 1996)



THE EDIBLE CATTAIL

The common cattail is a useful plant which can be used as a source of food, a fire starter and for shelter. The cattail grows in almost any wet area - marshes, swamps and shorelines.

The stalks, leaves and head are excellent for starting fires. The stalks can also be used for bedding and for constructing a windbreak.

Cattails should probably be at the top of the wild edibles list. It's easy to recognize and all parts are edible. Cattail fulfills all the criteria of what an edible plant should be:

- 1) Anyone can recognize it.
- 2) No poisonous plant looks like it.
- 3) It has edible parts at all times of the year.
- 4) It is easily found.
- 5) It is plentiful.
- 6) It won't harm you, even if eaten in quantity.
- 7) It's easy to prepare.
- 8) It tastes good.

The rhizome, found just above the roots, are horned shaped sprouts. Peel them and they can be eaten raw or after boiling for 15 minutes. (They taste best if they are shorter than 6" in length)

The leaved stalks can be gathered and eaten in the same way as the rhizome. Prepared either by boiling or eaten raw, the stalks are best in the spring.

Here's a recipe for Cattail Pollen Pancakes to try after your next foraging trip.

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 1/4 cup flour | 2 eggs |
| 1/2 tsp salt | 3 tbls oil/melted butter |
| 1/4 cup cattail pollen | 1 1/4 cup milk |
| 1 3/4 tsp baking powder | 1 tbls honey |

Mix dry ingredients. Separate eggs. Mix yolks with milk, oil/butter and honey. Pour liquid ingredients into dry ingredients. Mix gently. Beat whites until stiff. Fold into batter. Bake on preheated griddle. About 15 pancakes!

More recipes are available from Rudy Hillig at the Paul Bunyan Learning Center in Brainerd (218-829-9620).

(Information from the Whitefish Area Lodging Association paper and the Crosby C-I Courier, fall, 1995)



NEW BIKING TRAIL

With the Paul Bunyan Trail open from Baxter to Hackensack, the Whitefish Area Lodging Association has endorsed and participated in efforts to plan and construct an additional bike trail on the 12 miles from Cross Lake to Hwy 371 and the Paul Bunyan Trail. This trail should be open within the next couple of years.

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. TRUE You can still catch small northern pike in the hot summer from 7-15 feet but fish the deep water for the giant fish, which get stressed out in the hot shallow water.
2. TRUE Bass in the spring move toward the weedy shallows, become active, and this is where a variety of top water lures are real productive.
3. TRUE You may catch a few largemouth bass in 30-35 feet of water, but most bass are caught in the 2-15 foot range.
4. FALSE About 18 million fishermen in the US enjoy fishing for largemouth bass. There are fewer than 18 million walleye fishermen.
5. TRUE Work the shiny spoon through heavy cover and don't forget to add a plastic tail or a pork rind to provide an enticing larger silhouette.
6. TRUE Casting out a jig and winding it in or vertically jigging will catch just about every type of fish you have in your lake if you match the jig to the size of the fish you are trying to catch.

7. TRUE Northern pike will eat ducks, snakes, minnows, small panfish, small bullheads, frogs, mice, shorebird, crayfish, etc.

8. FALSE You will do much better using crankbaits for walleye fishing that resemble shad and perch - long, thin crankbaits.

(Information from Sportsman's Paper, Fall, 1996)

DNR PHONE NUMBERS

For general DNR information call the Info Center at 296-6157 (Metro Area) or 1-800-766-6000 (MN Toll Free) between 8 AM and 4:15 PM, Monday-Friday.

For information on ATV, boat and snowmobile registration call 296-2316 (Metro Area) or 1-800 285-2000 (MN Toll Free) between 8 AM and 4:15 PM, Monday-Friday.

Numbers for the DNR offices at Brainerd (1601 Minnesota Drive) are:

- Area Office Fisheries...828-2550
- Research.....828-2554
- Aquatic Plant Mgmt.....828-2535
- Forestry.....828-2565
- Trails/Waterways.....828-2557
- Wildlife.....828-2555
- Administration.....828-2561
- Non-Game.....828-2228

Numbers for the Outing offices are:

- Fisheries Station.....792-5164
- Forestry.....792-5214
- (Ranger Station)



CATCH AND RELEASE

There was a time when the only walleyes released by anglers were those that broke the line or shook off the hook. To most anglers, the thought of letting a walleye go made about as much sense as throwing your lunch into the lake.

But times have changed. More and more Minnesotans are learning that catch-and-release is one of the best ways to improve a lake's walleye fishing. Traditionally practiced by trout, muskie and bass anglers, it has been adopted by many individual anglers and sports groups that want to continue hooking good sized walleyes.

Last year at Lake Mille Lacs, anglers released one out of every six fish they caught. And of the 126,323 fish let go, more than 13,000 were fish over 20" long. "People are releasing more big fish," said Rich Bruesewitz, a fisheries manager who works at Mille Lacs. "We found that more than half the fish over 26" were released."

Many anglers still believe it is best to release tiny walleyes and trophy-sized females, thinking the small ones will

grow up to be big fish and the females are needed to produce eggs. But fisheries researchers have found that lakes usually have an ample supply of little fish and if there is enough spawning habitat, the intermediate size females produce more than enough eggs.

Bruesewitz said that only 3-5% of fish between 16 and 20 inches were released. If anglers released one out of five of this size fish, that would have been a 20% release rate and would do a lot to ensure more quality catches down the road. This is called "selective harvest".

By practicing selective harvest, anglers can increase a lake's potential to provide big fish while still enjoying meals of freshly caught walleyes.

So how do you release a walleye. It's easy. Play the fish quickly, handle it gently, never hold it by the eyes, use a needlenose pliers to remove hooks, cut the line if hooked in throat or gills (the fish's stomach acid will dissolve metal), ease fish back into the water.

Follow these guidelines and you can be sure almost all of the walleyes you release will safely swim away.

A THOUGHT TO SHARE

Those who can't forget are worse off than those who can't remember.
(Author Unknown)

JOIN THE MLA

We urge you, as individuals, to join the Minnesota Lakes Association...a collective voice for lakeshore property owners and lake users at a state level.

Created in 1984, MLA is a non-profit corporation consisting of individuals and groups who care about the state's most valuable resource: our lakes. Improving water quality and minimizing user conflicts are the two primary goals of the association.

The MLA works to address issues

such as Eurasian watermilfoil, zebra mussels, increasing aquatic vegetation, mercury contamination, polluted water caused by failing septic systems and uncontrolled livestock runoff and equitable property taxes.

With your membership you will receive 10 issues of Lakeside Minnesota, a magazine bringing you many timely issues of interest to you as a Minnesotan.

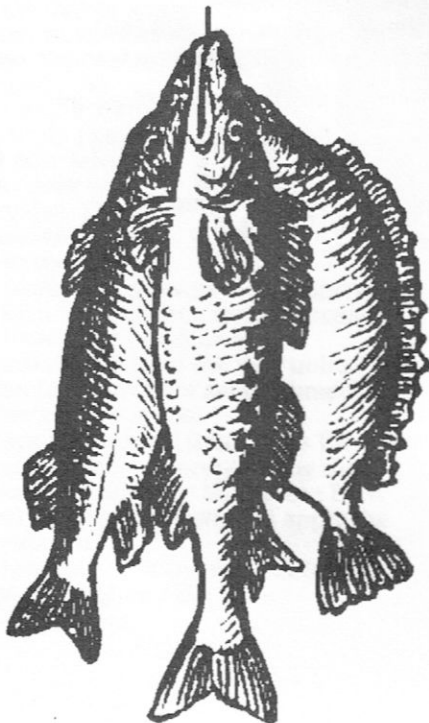
Membership is \$26 per year for an individual membership. For more information, contact the Minnesota Lakes Association, Box 321, Brainerd MN 56401.

MAGAZINES RECOMMENDED

If you are looking for a new magazine which would be of interest to you as a lakeshore property owner, we would suggest the following:

LAKESIDE MINNESOTA. This magazine is published 10 times a year by the Minnesota Lakes Association. An example of contents is the May/June, 1996 issue which contained the following articles - Working With A Long Distance Realtor, Water Lilies, Lakefront Landscaping, Zebra Mussels, Calendar of Events in Minnesota, Water Quality, Shoreland Alteration Permits, PFD Devices, and more. A one-year subscription is available for \$19.95. Send your order and check to Lakeside Minnesota, PO Box 321, Brainerd, MN 56401.

FOCUS 10,000. This magazine is published monthly April-June; bi-monthly August-March by the Environmental Communications, Inc. and is no longer associated with the Minnesota Lakes Association. The May, 1996, issue contained articles on Gardening, Chemical Free Foods, Big Fish Lake in Stems County, Septic Maintenance, 9 articles on Property Taxation, and more. A one-year subscription is available for \$15.00. Mail your order and check to New Subscription Department, FOCUS 10,000, PO Box 289, Aitken, MN 56431





HYDROLAB INFORMATION

A new water testing device is helping the Cass County Environmental Services Department (ESD) and lake associations develop water quality databases on 30 lakes. Last year the Lake Washburn Association voted to give \$100 to the Association of Cass County Lakes (ACCL) to use toward the purchase of a second Hydrolab, and to participate in this testing service.

The Hydrolab tests for temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, specific conductivity and redox potential. When the reading stabilizes at a particular depth, pressing a button stores the data in the Hydrolab's internal memory, which will hold up to 70,000 readings. This would usually require at least three separate instruments and a mountain of paper records. When testing is completed, the data can be downloaded directly into an ESD computer, and a printout generated, complete with statistic analysis.

It consists of a transmitter sonde containing several sensors that is lowered into the lake. Data from the sensors is transmitted via a cable to a small display and data storage unit. Readings are taken at one meter intervals from the surface of the lake to the bottom, giving a "profile" of physical conditions in that water at that location.

With a pricetag of almost \$10,000, the Hydrolab isn't something everyone is likely to run out and buy. However, it creates opportunities that make it worth the money to Cass County:

A) The Hydrolab is designed to be easy to operate. Several lake associations (including Lake Washburn Association) have trained volunteers that take readings on a regular basis. This, in turn, gets more people interested in water quality, strengthening the association and "demystifying" lake processes. Hydrolabs have become popular social events on several lakes! Working with the Hydrolab on Lake Washburn during

July, August, and October, 1996, have been Greg Hosch, John Houston, Jon Rask, Jerry Abts, and Cy Kruse.

B) Historical data on lakes is in short supply. We will need good information to know whether our water quality is improving, holding its own or declining.

C) Since calibration of the sensors is internal, accuracy of data is assured. This helps as lakes are compared. The Hydrolab is also used by other agencies and organizations for testing, giving a common database that can be share.

(Information from FOCUS 10,000, September, 1996)



BOAT ACCESS LOCATION CHANGED FOR LAKE WASHBURN

With the upgrading of the Clinton Converse Campground at the south end of Lake Washburn, the DNR moved the boat launch area south and east (back in the bay south of the swimming area). Please take time to acquaint yourself with the area (there are rocks in the vicinity) before launching your boat and as you work your way into East Lake.

LAKE WASHBURN FINANCIAL STATUS

As of December 31, 1996, The Lake Washburn Association had three C.D.'s totaling \$4532.69 in our Ecological/Species Fund, which has been set aside for any problems which might arise with the ecological quality of the lake. We also have a TOTAL OF

\$3305.34 in a Money Market and a Checking Account for use for the usual operation of the Association and for any unusual emergencies. This gives us a total of \$7838.03 of usable funds. The Board approved, and anticipates being able to apply \$1500 to \$2000 of the Money Market Account to the Ecological Fund this winter. The C.D.'s of course would loose interest if they were to be cashed before term. We expect to be able to add to the Ecological Fund again at the end of 1997. This fund was proposed, voted on, and begun in 1995 to insure the continued quality of Lake Washburn. The Board has added to it each year as it was also the decision of the Board of 1995 to continue to add to this fund as we were financially able.

We are projecting Income for 1997 with an approximate membership of 250 to be about \$2900. We are anticipating spending approximately \$200 - \$2500 for our operational expenses during the 1997 year. The duplicating and postage of our Newsletter is our greatest expense. The Board, however, feels that this is one of our most important methods of distributing information about our lake to our property owners. Your \$10.00 dues donation is important to Lake Washburn and will help your Association continue to work for you as property owners. You may also set aside a donation for the Ecological Fund, the Hydrolab of Cass County (through the Association of Cass County Lakes) or any other fund which you may specify. When you donate additional funds, please specify where you would like them allocated.

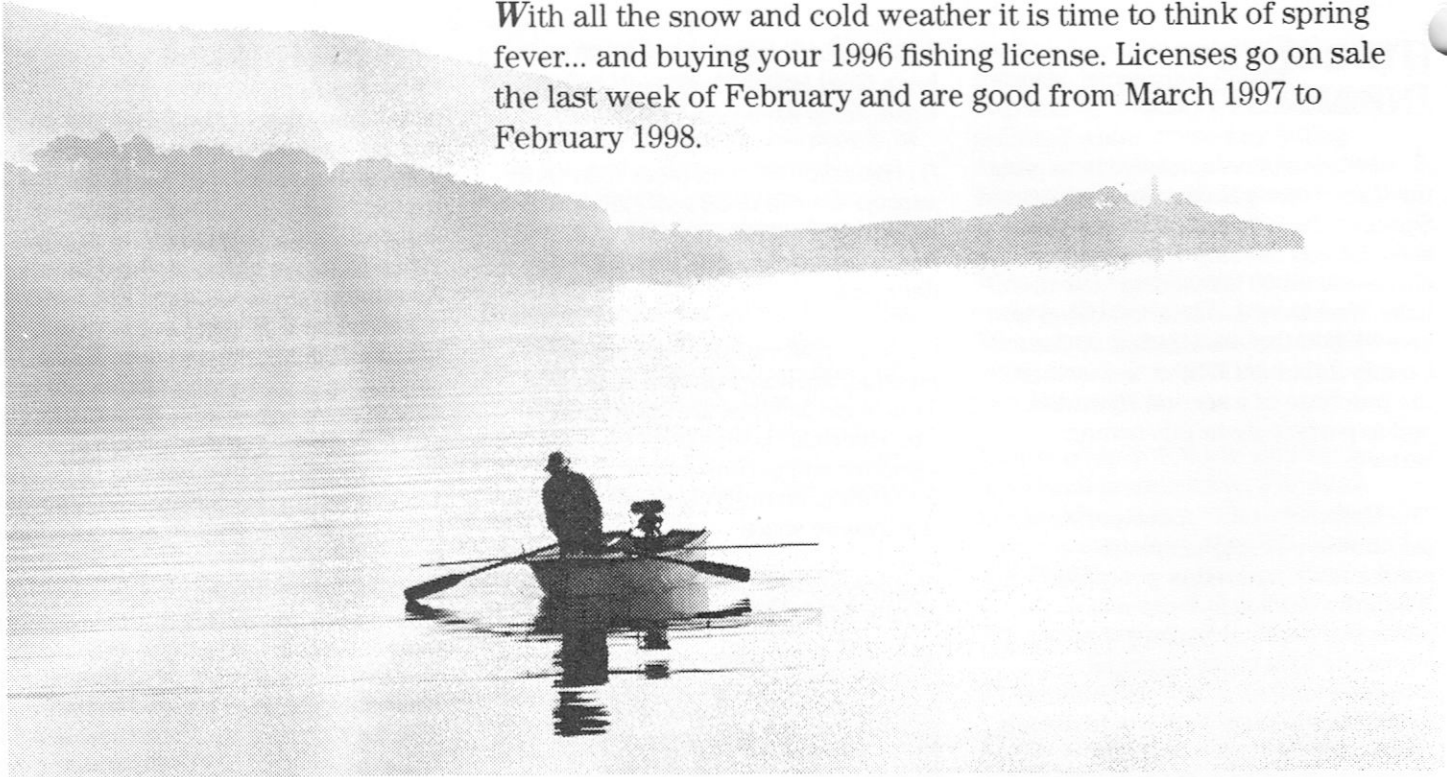
Marje Anderson
Treasurer, LWA

The treasurer's report will be acted upon at the next Board of Directors' meeting.

A special "Thank You" goes to Jack and Grace Schuller for auditing the 1996 financial records of Lake Washburn Association.

Spring Fever at Lake Washburn

With all the snow and cold weather it is time to think of spring fever... and buying your 1996 fishing license. Licenses go on sale the last week of February and are good from March 1997 to February 1998.



BOX 26, OUTING, MN 56662