



Lake Washburn Association

Working to protect our lake and its environment for future generations

Spring 2017

Inside this issue:

Page 2 & 3

- Board, Committee Contact information
- New Web Page
- Fisheries Report

Page 4 & 5

- Boat Parade
- AIS Efforts
- Water Patrol

Page 6 & 7

- Powassan Threat!
- County, DNR, and Association joint efforts on AIS
- 100 Years on Lake Washburn

Page 8—12

- Sponsors

Page 13

- Buoys
- Calendar
- Highway 48 Clean-up

Page 14 & 15

- Typical Cabin Owner
- Loons
- Boat inspections

Page 16

MEMBERSHIP FORM!!!

Message from the President

First, I want to thank Ron Reich for his past 5 years of service as President on the Association. Ron did a great job of keeping the Board focused on strategic goals, championing efforts on the history committee and exemplifying a selfless attitude in giving back to our shared lake.

If you are new to the Lake please know that Ron and many people keep it all working quietly and with little fanfare. Whether it is water testing, taking secchi disk readings, organizing boat inspections, putting up a great web page, maintaining and getting out loons nesting platforms, maintaining and getting buoys out, working with the DNR on our fishery, Cleaning up highway 48, or organizing great meetings with great meals and chance for us to meet our neighbors. It is a long list! There is much more these volunteers do, and it is out of love of our lake.

I am honored to be getting more involved in the Association again. I want to assure you this is not an exclusive club! There are no benefits other than the knowledge you are contributing to something you love. We pay for our own coffee at board meetings (all are welcome to attend). All contributions go toward our mission. We have ZERO overhead, and at least a couple of thousand hours of donated work to keep it all running. Find me a non-profit you support that has 0% administration costs. Also, if you have the time and commitment, all help is welcome; I promise that! No effort small or large will be refused.

This year our strategic focus will be essentially the same. We revisit this annually, or 2017 focus will be to:

- Continue to battle EWM and other AIS
- Increase membership to 250 (70% of owners)
- Improve Member Communication through electronic media
- Plan Events to Improve Lake Community Spirit

The Association is relatively strong compared to most, but it can be stronger, much stronger. It starts with us having everyone at least being members. As we get older and our children become adults, we need them to become members as well. Please encourage our family members to get involved. The bigger we are the more effectively we work.

We all want a clean lake that we all enjoy, and everyone on Washburn benefits from the Association's efforts. Still not everyone joins. It is easy not to join or help out, but if the Lake is really important to you please give back to it, and encourage your neighbors to join and contribute their efforts as well.

We have some exciting things we will be starting this year, and we will keep you informed as those details get clearer. We do need to be able to stay in contact though so please send us your emails so we can keep you in the loop! So get us your email, join the association, and consider what you and your family can do to help us keep our lake clean, safe, and beautiful.

Ted Johnson

Annual Meetings: take place June 10th at The Crooked Lake Town Hall we will offer a Spaghetti dinner at the end of the meeting, and our second Meeting will be August 12th. Dinner will be served as well.

New Website Launch— www.lakewashburnmn.org

Have you checked out the Lake Washburn Association Website?
www.lakewashburnmn.org

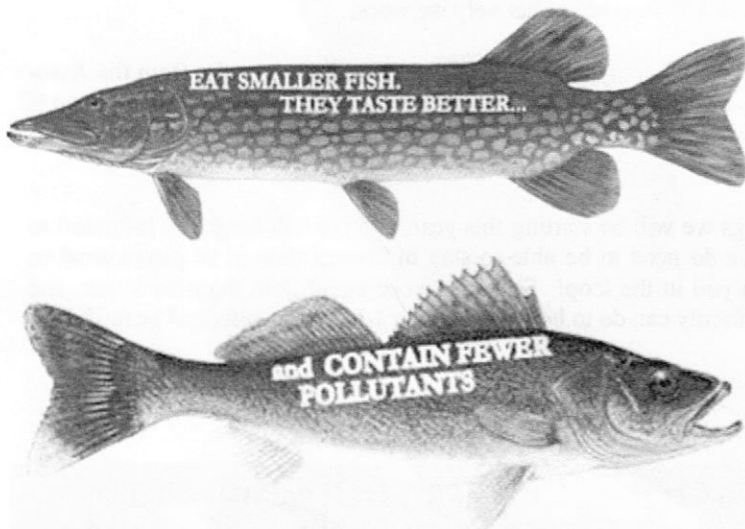
The website was created late last summer as a means of communicating with our lake property owners. The lake association information that is included on the site is a tool to improve the communication to our members as well as an outreach to our community.

Information about our lake as well as happenings that occur throughout the year will be published on the site. Continued efforts regarding aquatic hitchhikers, one of the many focuses on the site, and information regarding this effort will be posted.

Board meetings and Association Meetings will be posted on the site.

Our website also has the weather, a blog, contact us, links to other websites, and photos that are all related to Lake Washburn. If anyone has any photos of our lake – sunsets, sunrises, wildlife or an activity that warrants publication, please send them to lakewashburn.mn@gmail.com. If the photo needs explanation, please note that when sending. The site will continue to be updated and more info included as it becomes available.

Thanks to Kathy Pfaff for her work!



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Spring Fisheries Report: Walleye Numbers Trend Down

By R J Harris

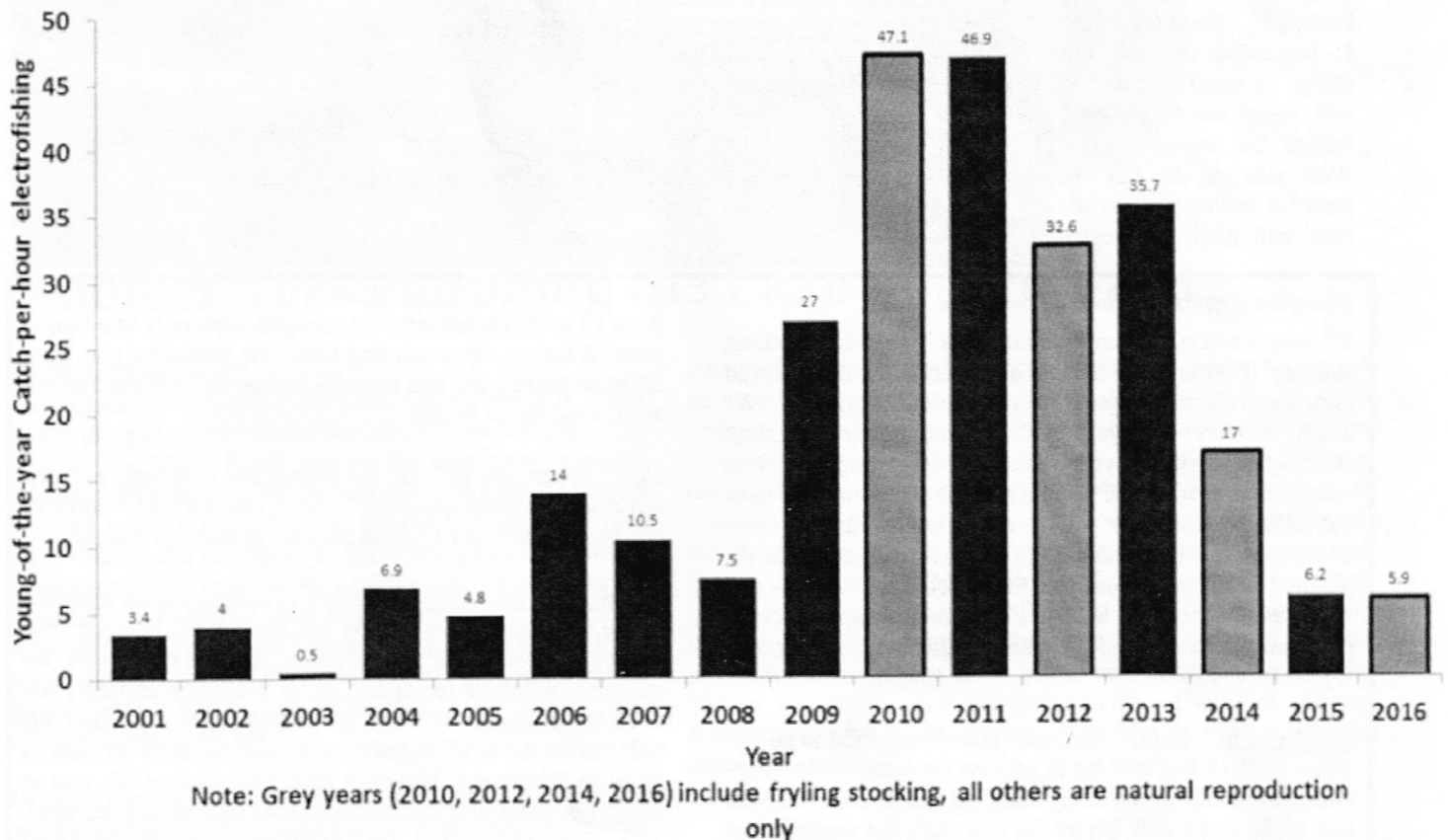
Another weird winter is over, and we look forward to a fun-filled spring and summer that includes angling success. I haven't heard much about ice fishing success on Washburn this winter, probably because relatively few anglers were out. This past year, late ice was an issue. The following is an update since the last report:

Electrofishing. Once again, the DNR conducted Electrofishing in mid-September. According to the DNR website, Electrofishing is most often used for sampling largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, and young of the year walleye. A boat-mounted generator is used to induce electrical current into the water that stuns the fish, allowing fisheries workers to net the fish for placement in live wells. Most of the fish caught by electrofishing recover rapidly and are promptly returned to the water after the necessary biological data is recorded. This process is used on Washburn to help determine whether the walleye stocking program is working and to learn the rate of natural reproduction. The result was not good news. The catch rate for young-of-the-year was only 5.9/hr. The frylings looked OK when stocked, but apparently didn't fare well thereafter. As you can see on the following chart, the results plunged in 2015 and 2016.

What caused the drop? There is no easy answer. One issue is, as discussed before, the number of small northern in the lake. Another issue is a lake of perch, a prime food source for most fish including walleye. And, no, the DNR does not stock perch. A possible third factor is that there are only a couple of good spawning areas in the lake and even those are threatened. This last point may help explain why natural reproduction seems low. The increasing number of bass in the lake could be an issue. Wisconsin is doing a study of the impact Bass have on the walleye fishery and we are awaiting those results. Beyond that, we just don't know.

Fishery Management Plan. We have now completed the fishery management plan that had been in place with the DNR. The DNR indicates they will continue to work with us; "Regarding future stocking, we'll plan fryings again in 2 years, pending summer 2017's gill net survey and assuming they are available. If not, we'll look at fingerlings on the same alternate year cycle or possibly tied to a low YOY catch rate. If less than X YOY/hr (range could be 15-30 YOY/hr) for 2 consecutive years, we'd stock fingerlings the

Continued on pg. 4.



Looking Forward to the Fourth!

By R J Harris

According to fairly reliable resources, the annual boat parade in July 2016 drew 54 boats, all decorated for the event. WOW! Thanks to all of those who participated either by actually being in the parade or who participated by cheering and jeering as the parade passed their places on shore. The parade was conducted, as usual, primarily in Birch Bay. Efforts to extend the parade to include the Bear Paw and Iowa Camp areas met with at best, limited success. Bigfoot did not make an appearance; rumor has it that s/he was spotted near Remer. People did report seeing other very strange critters along the way. Both boaters and watchers had a great time.

2017. The boat parade will continue again this year. Join in the fun. Mark your calendars. The date is the same date as the Outing Fireworks, Saturday, July 1, beginning at 1:00 pm sharp. As usual, the parade will begin on Birch Bay, behind the buoys on the West side of the bay, in front of Schullers. An air horn will mark the begin-

ning of the event. There will be a lead boat; last year it was the Sheriff's Water Patrol boat. The parade route will run from the starting point, around the bay to the last cabin on the east side of Birch Bay. Because of past results, it will not extend beyond Birch Bay. Having said that, we encourage people from all areas of the lake to come and participate as boaters or as spectators. Will Bigfoot be there this year? Who knows... that creature has a mind of its own but it does seem to enjoy the parade so watch for it.



Fisheries Report Continued from page 3...

2nd year...essentially an alternate year fingerling stocking strategy if natural reproduction is poor, but doesn't add unnecessary fish in a good natural reproduction year. We could also try fry again with a contingency fingerling stocking scenario as well. The trick is getting fish from whatever size or source up to a catchable size and we have yet to find a consistent way to do at throughout 60+ years of consistent walleye stocking. This will be the last of the planned nettings to evaluate the success of frylings and then we'll be working with you folks to develop a stocking plan going forward (and the lake will go back to the normal 6-year survey cycle.)"

Northern bag limit. Legislation is now expected to go into effect in 2018 that will try to address the issue of the abundance of small "hammer handles" to the detriment of the rest of the game fish. Under the new regs, the northern bag limit will change to: Angling bag limit: 10, and all pike

from 22 to 26 inches must be released, with only two longer than 26 inches. Sparring bag limit: 10, including one from 22 to 26 inches and one over 26 inches; or, bag limit of 10, with two over 26 inches.

New regulations or old, we encourage everyone to keep those smaller northern (and bass). Even a 15-16" northern can provide decent filets and they are as tasty as walleye.

License fee increase: The DNR is proposing an increase in the fees charged for fishing and for hunting licenses. The proposed increased fee for a fishing license is only \$3, resulting in a license fee of \$25. Lake Washburn certainly has been the recipient of DNR services and the increased fee will enable the DNR to continue to provide such services to lakes in Minnesota. The most recent increase of \$5, was in 2012. For more information about how license fees are used, go to: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/licensedollarsatwork/index.html>

AIS Multi-Pronged Approach

By Ted Johnson

We have had two summers now since we treated for Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM). Last year there were numerous hours of LWA folks surveying for EWM and the Association hired a professional to survey the East Basin. We have two years when no EWM was found (nor any other invasive species). That is good news but we have had three EWM-free summers before, so we it is good news but for from a clean bill of health.

Our approach to AIS is not just surveying and treating for EWM. We have made great strides in boat inspections thanks to the efforts of Les Raish, Bob Holman, and others who have worked diligently to coordinate inspections in conjunction with our neighbors and the township (see their report on page 7). Their efforts are key in keeping other invasives such as zebra mussels, curly leaf pondweed, and starry stonewort, and many others out. Also we want to be responsible and if there is EWM in our lake we need stop the spread as well.

We also want to make sure we are educating our members on how to identify and prevent AIS. We have placed signage on all major roads to the lake so that folks are reminded to inspect before using the numerous private launches on the lake. We have offered classes to members to learn how to identify EWM in particular, but also other AIS.

As you remember when we have found any EWM the association has reacted swiftly and treated the areas aggressively with the best chemical treatments available. That has not been inexpensive; to date we have spent nearly \$50,000. The

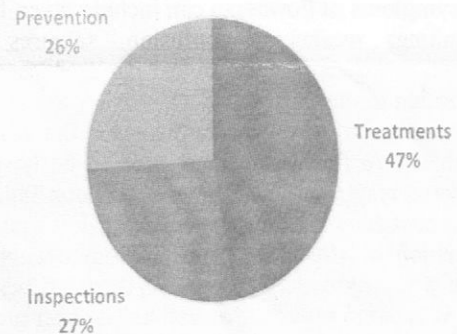
vast majority of that has been raised by contributions from LWA Member and lake residents.

Currently we have just 50,000 dollars in the AIS Prevention Fund. That sounds like a lot of money but if we had a reoccurrence of EWM and the discovery of Zebra Mussels or another invasive in the same year those funds would be gone in one year. So your continued support is key so that we can react when needed.

This year we will continue to survey and contract with Freshwater Scientific Services. We will continue the boat monitoring and continue to look at what educational needs we have.

As always the more help we can get from volunteers the better. So fisherman out there learn what AIS looks like and look for it as you fish. Kayakers keep an eye out on your morning paddle. All of us can keep an eye out when we are on our docks and beaches or swimming in what will soon be warm water!

AIS SPENDING



Another Year Patrolling the Lake For our Safety

By Steve Carlson

I am pleased to announce the Cass County Sheriffs Water Patrol program continues for the 2017 summer season. Last summer the Water Patrol was on the lake every weekend that it wasn't raining, unfortunately it rained a lot. And again I would ask that you consider volunteering some of your Lake time to this program. If you think you would like to participate in this program it's a simple process. Complete a form for the Sheriff's Office to get an ID badge, attend an organizational meeting in May and be familiar with Minnesota boating / safety regulations. For more information please contact Steve Carlson at (651-343-8721) or bro-diedog@centurylink.net.

In years past the Water Patrol and the Sheriff's Department would hold classes for young people to get their Watercraft

operators permit. If there is enough interest this year we would be happy to try and set one up. You can also go to the DNR website for online options. <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/boatwater/education.html>. For those of us older than 17 years old and don't need a permit, I would encourage you to pick up or download a copy of this year's DNR Boating Regulations. Before you launch your boat this spring read the regulations and insure you have all the required safety equipment on board [proper type and quantity of life jackets, fire extinguisher, throwable PDF, horn or whistle, current registration sticker and navigation lights]. For those with power boats please read the section on altering your exhaust systems. The DNR officers now have equipment for checking noise levels. Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Far More Dangerous Tick-Borne Illness on the Rise

Scientists have a double-shot of bad news about ticks: There's a new, and potentially fatal, tick-borne illness called Powassan, and this summer looks like it might be one of the worst on record for an increase in the tick population.

"Tick-borne diseases are on the rise, and prevention should be on everyone's mind, particularly during the spring and summer, and early fall when ticks are most active," said Rebecca Eisen. She is a research biologist in the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's](#) division of vector-borne diseases.

Laura Goodman, a senior research associate in population medicine and diagnostic sciences at [Cornell University](#), concurred. "It's going to be a bad season," she said.

Approximately 75 cases of Powassan disease were reported in the United States over the past 10 years. Most cases have occurred in the Northeast and Great Lakes region, according to the CDC.

Powassan is a virus that can be transmitted through a tick bite. Although rare, Powassan has been spreading, and more cases are likely this year, Goodman said.

Signs and symptoms of Powassan can include fever, headache, vomiting, weakness, confusion, seizures and memory loss. Long-term neurological damage also may occur, according to the CDC.

There's currently no specific treatment for the disease. People with severe Powassan often need to be hospitalized to receive respiratory support, intravenous fluids or medications to reduce swelling in the brain.

If inflammation of the brain (encephalitis) occurs, the fatality rate is approximately 10 percent, the CDC warns. There's no vaccine to prevent Powassan. The best prevention is avoiding ticks.

And that may be harder to do this year, experts at Cornell University explained. Because of a milder winter in the Northeast, a dramatic increase in the tick population is expected in that region and possibly across the northern United States.

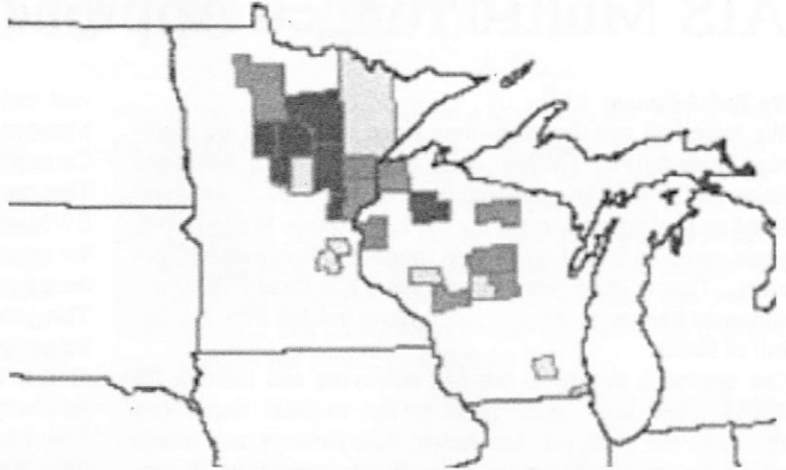
Eisen said that "the ability of ticks to survive and reproduce also is influenced by temperature and precipitation. Other factors include, but are not limited to, availability of hosts and suitable habitat, such as wooded or brushy vegetation."

Ticks that can transmit illnesses have expanded their geographic range and are now being found in places they weren't seen 20 years ago, she noted.

Reforestation and increased deer populations are contributing to the expanding tick distribution, Eisen said.

Ticks carry not only bacterial diseases such as Lyme, but also viral illnesses like Powassan and parasitic diseases like babesiosis.

Since the late 1990s, the number of reported cases of Lyme disease in the United States has tripled, and the



Our neck of the woods is has extremely high number of Powassan virus cases!

number of counties in the Northeast and upper Midwest that are considered high-risk for Lyme disease has increased by more than 300 percent, Eisen said.

In 2015, about 30,000 cases of Lyme disease were reported in Americans, but the number was likely much higher, according to the CDC.

To protect yourself from a tick-borne infection, the CDC recommends:

- Learning which tick-borne diseases are common in your area.
- Avoiding places with thick vegetation, high grass and leaf litter.
- Walking in the center of trails when hiking.
- Using repellent that contains 20 percent or more DEET on exposed skin for protection that lasts several hours.
- Using products that contain permethrin to treat clothing and gear — such as boots, pants, socks and tents — or wearing clothing pre-treated with permethrin.
- Bathing or showering as soon as possible after potential exposure, to wash off ticks before they bite.
- Removing all attached ticks as soon as possible.
- Treating dogs with products that kill and/or repel ticks.
- Examining gear and pets. Ticks can ride into the home on clothing and pets, then attach to a person later, so carefully examine pets, coats and day packs.
- Drying clothes in a dryer on high heat for 10 minutes to kill ticks on dry clothing after you come indoors. If the clothes are damp, additional time may be needed. If the clothes require washing first, hot water is recommended.
- If the clothes can't be washed in hot water, tumble dry on low heat for 90 minutes or high heat for 60 minutes. The clothes should be warm and completely dry.

"It's especially important to take steps to protect yourself and your loved ones, including pets, from ticks during this season, as well as any time during the warmer months when you're outside," Eisen said.

Cass County, Lake Associations, DNR, and Townships working together!

By Bob Holman

The Cass County 2016 AIS Summary Meeting was held on January 25th. Rima Smith-Keprios, AIS Coordinator for the county, provided a summary of the 2016 seasons and what the county has planned for 2017. Rima stressed the importance of continued lake association pressure in St. Paul to continue the state's support to combat AIS infestation.

Local aid to the MN counties for AIS from remains at \$10M. From this amount, Cass County is expected to receive \$500k from the state: \$250k in July and \$250k in December. The Cass County budget for 2016 was \$510k with an actual expenditure of \$550k. AIS Level 1 Inspections and Level 2 Decontaminations will continue for 2017. For Lake Washburn, this represents the same coverage we received from last season: 30 hours per weekend: 10 hours each day Friday through Sunday with additional coverage for holiday weekends. The county knows the importance of preventing or slowing the spread of AIS and has purchased an additional decontamination unit installed at Federal Dam managed by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Cass County expects ERC, Brainerd to hire a total of 33 inspec-

tors; 20-22 are returning from 2016 (this includes Dale returning at the Outing Decontamination Station). In 2016, 19,658 inspections were done in the county with 466 decontaminations (Outing had 266 of these). Specific hours for 2016 lake inspections are being compiled now and will be available in the next few weeks. The good news from early results show increased inspections over 2015 especially for decontamination services. This year's training includes an AIS workshop and DNR AIS Training scheduled on 21-22 April in either Backus or Pine River. The county is also planning additional signage for the 2017 season for Highways 6, 10 and 371 – northern gateways through our county. And finally, AIS Laws and Inspector Rules are now being included in the 2017 Fishing Manual.

Nicole Kovar, DNR in Park Rapids is working with bait dealers to educate and stress the importance to follow water to water rules. She has expressed concern on the findings of Starry Stonewort in Turtle and Cass Lake and will distribute more information as it becomes available. Some think Copper Sulfate may be effective; however, the treatment is expensive and preliminary results are still being evaluated.

100 Years on Lake Washburn!

By Ellen Leger

The collective work of the Lake Washburn History Committee, chaired by Ron Reich realized its goal in writing, publishing, marketing and selling over 400 copies of the history of our lake. With volunteer help and coordination, our books were mailed all over the United States. This evolved into a community to include: Our local library, **Outing Volunteer Library** who facilitated the delivery of books and our **local Postmaster** who helped *save the day* on several occasions. Publishing and delivery was a community effort that brought landowners together, often for the first time.

In August, at our annual meeting, resident-writers presented their stories, some in period costume, most with grand enthusiasm. There is a real possibility that our scripted history could be delivered again this summer through the support of Screen Porch Productions, and Therese Kuntz.

During the 2016 summer months, I served as a collection post for lake residents who picked up their book(s). Several lake owners arrived by boat. What was consistent was this: There are still stories to be told. I was amazed at the connections lake owners made about a story that caused another story to be shared. For this reason, I'm proposing that we continue the dialogue of our history via our Newsletter. It was the *Lake Washburn Newsletter*, that provided a solid ground for the content of our book. Stories of resort building, water quality, early settlers, etc. became a primary resource for this successful project.

100 Years of Lake Washburn History's final chapter was on family memories. My proposal is to encourage residents to add 'their' story. If we don't write our history, it will be lost. Consider writing your family story, if you haven't submitted one, or, even if you did, you may have material to be added. We live on Lake Washburn and we are a Lake Community. We still have stories to tell and keep.

Chapter Seven; A Lake Washburn Collection of Family Memories. In that chapter residents shared their individual recollections of campfires, fishing trips, hunting, building projects that took years, and provided their families with a legacy

You might consider sharing your copy with a neighbor who doesn't have a book. A third printing of *100 Years of Lake Washburn History* may be possible, but at this time—not probable. *The Lake Washburn Newsletter* can serve to keep the history of our lake and our people coming forward. Two copies of the book are available at the Outing Library, one for check out.

Give some thought to telling – your story.

There are still a limited number of copies of *100 Years on Lake Washburn* Available!

Contact Ellen Ledger at:
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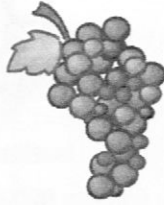
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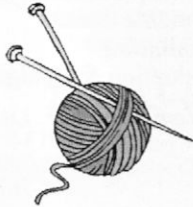
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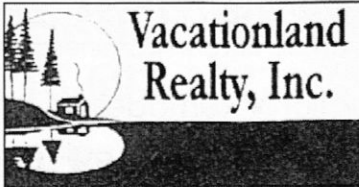
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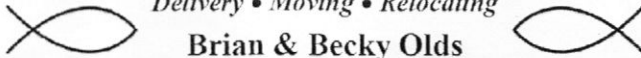
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Buoys—Important Work for all of us!

By Steve Carlson

As you may be aware, the 31 Buoys on Lake Washburn fall under the jurisdiction of the Cass County Sheriff's Department. Your Association maintains the buoy system for the County with the help of volunteers and the generous help of Olds Dock Service. Brian Olds has been placing and picking up our Buoys for over ten year at no charge to the Association or the County. Over that time period his business has increased making it harder for him to find the time to deal with our Buoys. Last spring it was after Memorial Day before the last buoy was placed. A combination of Brian's schedule, weather and my inability to place more myself led to the late finish. It has been my policy as the chairperson of the Buoy Committee and its only active member to place buoys marking the most hazardous locations by opening fishing and the rest by Memorial Day. Last year Brian acquired a new piece of equipment for picking up boat lifts and may also be used to pick up buoys. We will do better this spring, with Old help and some new LWA volunteers who stepped up!



I have been chairperson of the Buoy Committee for about six or seven years now and will be retiring from that position at the end of this summer. We are in need of someone or a group of people to volunteer to take over this duty. The job entails coordinating with Olds Dock Service, the Cass County Sheriff's office and the Board of Directors for the placement and pickup of our buoys. You would also be responsible for maintaining the buoys over the course of the summer. Repairing, replacing and repositioning the buoys as needed; each year is different. Last summer we had five buoys go missing after the big storm. Some were found floating out of position others had their anchor ripped off and were found on shore. If our Association is no longer able manage our buoys ourselves that responsibility reverts back to the Cass County Sheriff's Department. Should that happen we would most likely lose many of our buoys. The Sheriff's Department only places buoys on dangerous hazards to navigation. Please consider volunteering for this very important job.

Calendar of Events and Meetings

May 28th: Plant & Book Sale at the Outing Volunteer Library (9am - 4pm)

June 3rd: Over The Hills ATV Gang Pork N' Ride, 15th Annual Pork N' Ride Event (Held at Granny's Bar & Grill)

June 10th: LWA Board Meeting 8 AM Village Inn

June 10th: LWA General Meeting & Spaghetti Dinner ⁴⁵
PM Crooked Lake Town Hall

June 11th: Outing Clean Up Day (Outing canister station)

June 11th: Outing Library 10th Anniversary: 10am - 3pm join us for refreshments & giveaways

July 1st: Fireworks over Lawrence Lake in Outing, MN
(Show starts at dusk)

July 15th: Emily Days

July 15th: LWA Board Meeting 8 AM at the Village Inn

August 5th: "Love of our Water" at Luscher's Park

from 10-AM-5PM

August 12th: LWA Board Meeting 8 AM at the Village Inn

August 12th: LWA General Meeting & Dinner 4 PM

Crooked Lake Town Hall

August 19th: Lions Corn Feed (At Granny's Bar & Grill)

August 20th: Emily Greens Food Shelve Scramble

Crew Keeping Highway 48 Clean!

Thanks to Keith Ahlquist and Sue for their on-going work to organize and lead the highway 48 clean up. The Spring clean up had great helpers this Spring:

- ⇒ Mindi, Aric & Hope Genz
- ⇒ Mick Enerson
- ⇒ Jackie Hagle
- ⇒ Richard Nelles
- ⇒ Steve Pederson

THANKS TO ALL

So Who is the Typical Cabin Owner?

Minnesota lake home and cabin owners — that oh-so-MN demographic — are getting older. And not any richer. And their health care costs are rising.

Which might prove troublesome for the cherished natural resources — namely our lakes — that lakefront property owners are at the forefront of protecting.

Those are among the findings of a study released Friday by Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates, an environmental-advocacy group that often focuses on issues relevant to lake property owners associations.

The group called the findings a "disturbing trend" because of the uncertainty it could create over the future of both seasonal property ownership and environmental stewardship.

"Simultaneously as owners and the state both struggle to protect the healthy lakes in Minnesota while working to restore the 40 percent of waters that are degraded, very hard decisions are coming in the short term," said Jeff Forester, the group's executive director. "Minnesota is about to experience the largest intergenerational transfer of shoreline property in our history. Yet, the next generation will no doubt be stressed to pay for the medical bills and maintain the properties that will come into their ownership in the next decade."

The group surveyed some 300 Minnesotans between August

and September, paralleling surveys conducted in 2005 and 1999. Those surveyed included property owners who use their cabins only seasonally and those who use lake homes as their primary residence.

Here are some of the findings:

Average age: The average age of lake home and cabin property owners is 68. That's up from 62 years old in 2005 and 58 in 1999.

Average income: The average household income of lake home and cabin property owners is \$58,000. That's pretty much unchanged since the previous two surveys.

Walleye group needed: The survey also touched on other issues affecting cabin owners. For example, 69 percent said there should be an organization to protect walleye fishing in Minnesota. However, according to the results: "58 percent of the lake home and cabin owners interviewed would not support an organization of walleye, crappie and panfish. Property owners want to know about the cost and the structure of the organization."

Broadband wanted: Sixty-four percent of cabin and lake property owners said they would be interested in more state investment in high-speed broadband internet service to Greater Minnesota. Many also said they currently have problems with cell-phone and internet coverage and would welcome lower-cost coverage.

Remember to stay away from loon platforms and Chicks!!

Washburn is fortunate to have one the healthiest reproducing loon populations in Minnesota. The platforms you see around the lake are procured and placed there by LWA volunteers and have yielded exceptional results.

Please help our loons by:

- ◆ Keeping distance from them while they are nesting. Even if a platform or nest is not occupied in the late Spring and early summer it does not mean you can approach. Adult loons have been known to abandon their nests when they think they have been disturbed.
- ◆ Watch for chicks! When chicks are young they can not dive, and they can not get out of speeding boats' paths. Through mid-July in particular **watch out and avoid** loons while cruising!



With a powerful zoom or binoculars only!

Boat Inspections seek to reduce risk of AIS Spread

By Les Raisch

Lake Washburn boat lake access launch is next door to Clint Converse Campground which is highly used during the summer weekends. The weekend campers consist of fishermen staying from Friday afternoon till Sunday afternoon and this campsite is highly used during the weekends and holidays. We notice on holidays, there is approximate 3 to 6 boats parked on the shoreline of the campgrounds during overnight stays. We are highly concern many campers stay Sunday evenings leaving early Monday or sometimes come in on Thursday night - either traveling from the Cities or from other lakes.

The 31 site campgrounds are generally full on all of the major weekend or holiday events, including the Walleye fishing opener. In addition to those who use the ramp from the campgrounds, Washburn Lake draws many boating enthusiasts due to its reputation as an excellent recreational lake. The Washburn ramp also gets activity from various fishing tournament participants, many of whom return due to the success they enjoyed during introduction to the lake through a tournament.

Lake Washburn residents of the lake belong to a very active lake association. Lake Washburn Association notice there is a transitioning to a younger generation. They, their families and friends tend to have more and varying types of watercraft, such as ski-boats, jet-skis, kayaks, etc. instead of the traditional family fishing boat. They also tend to visit a variety of lakes, such as Mille Lacs, and lakes in the Twin Cities, such as Lake Minnetonka, which many of these lakes are also AIS contaminated. This concern of the association for the lake to be subject to an increased risk of AIS contamination as these watercrafts is moved from lake to lake.

We also have a number of private boat launches are located around the lake without any boat inspections. The association has informed the owners to take vigilance on any contamination of the boats being launched from their facilities.

Lake Washburn Association two directors belong to the Crooked Lake Township AIS Committee working together to increase AIS detection. The committee has installed at the public accesses a ZMEWS (Zebra Mussel Early Warning System - a 4"PCV pipe) on the public launch dock and various private docks throughout the lake which are inspected monthly. The Outing Decontamination Station has been installed and in oper-

ation with Level 2 inspectors in the town of Outing since 2015 with 266 boats been decontaminated the summer of 2016. The proximity of Lake Washburn and Lake Roosevelt, with other Crooked Lake Township Lakes, work together to eliminate AIS from contaminated waters such as Cross Lake (20 miles southwest), Gull Lake (40 miles west), Mille Lacs Lake (50 miles south), and Lake Winnibigoshish (40 miles northeast), which are all infested with Zebra Mussels, meaning we are at **HIGH RISK** of AIS contamination.

The CLT (Crooked Lake Township) AIS Committee and Cass County (receiving state provided funds) aid in scheduling of Level 1 and Level 2 inspectors; 30 hours every weekend, Friday through Sunday, with more on holidays: The development by the committee of Lake Ambassadors for landing visits to talk or aid the inspectors and the boaters about the new laws and personal responsibilities to prevent AIS contamination. This pleased the boaters attitude and to abide with the laws of Minnesota.

Lake Washburn Association has been volunteering monitoring the lake for a number of years. Last year of 2016, we monitored only on week-

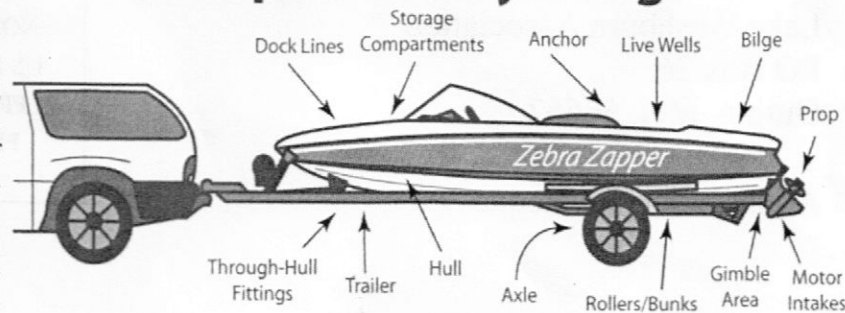
ends and holidays and approximate 670 boats were inspected by Level 1 inspectors for invasive aquatic species. Our hours of inspections usually ran from Friday 3 pm to 8 pm, Saturday 7 am to 6 pm and Sunday 7 am to 4 pm on normal weekends. Holidays normally extended an additional day.

As a lake association,

LWA have been very active with working with the DNR Fishery, County Road 48 Cleanup, Sheriff's Dept for buoys installation and removal, assisting Sheriff's Dept for Water Patrol, and working with the DNR Parks and Trails. Partnership with Cass County and the township, we have added AIS signage and the installation of a monofilament line recycling station to protect our lake and its environment for future generation. LWA cares about our lake and the surrounding communities.

Water stewardship is the main objective of the Lake Washburn Association. Additional inspector hours would be a benefit, not only to protect our lake, but since we have EWM, we want to ensure boats leaving our lake are clean to prevent infesting other lakes in Minnesota. This application is for the need for DNR trained inspectors at the landing to help us defend our lakes from AIS contamination in 2017.

Before leaving and before launching...
inspect everything!



Lake Washburn Association

Annual Membership Dues: \$25.00* (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31)

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- Invasive Species Prevention & Treatment

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