

Lake Washburn Association

Newsletter

Working to Protect our Beautiful Lake and its Environment for Future Generations

Spring 2007

Important Dates:

- General Meeting: June 16, 2007
Next Board Meeting: June 16, 2007
Road Clean-up: June 8, 2007
Boat Monitoring: Opening Fishing,
Memorial Day, 4th of July
General Meeting: August 11, 2007

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Why We Need Volunteers by Ted Johnson, President

According to Webster and a little poetic license: *Volunteers are those who enter into or offer themselves for a service of their own free will.* Most activities of the Lake Washburn Association (LWA) require a heavy dose of volunteers. Whether it's County Road 48 clean-up, boat monitoring, water quality testing, or water patrol, volunteers are needed to accomplish our objectives in these areas. There are other areas that require your assistance too. Please contact one of the LWA officers or directors to find out other areas requiring volunteers.

Since LWA is a non-profit corporation, we don't pay to have services performed. We count on our members to fulfill those duties by volunteering to serve. LWA wants to study, develop and encourage practices which will protect and maintain the beauty and ecology of our lake. Remember, practices zealously pursued soon pass into habits.

I know many of you have volunteered willingly year after year. The LWA owes you a *heart-felt thanks* for these past efforts. And many of you will continue to volunteer for future activities in support of our mission. But we shouldn't have to count on the same volunteers time after time. We can always use more volunteers to protect the quality of Lake Washburn and its natural resources. And with more volunteers, perhaps we can investigate additional activities to maintain and improve our lake quality.

Volunteering normally takes a few hours of your time. While there are legitimate excuses, please consider what key role you would be playing by volunteering - not much time out of your schedule but extremely worthwhile to pursue. During our June membership meeting, look for sign-up sheets for specific activities, put a note on your membership form, or contact one of the board members for the areas you would like to offer your services. Be a good Lake Washburn steward - volunteer!

New Editor / New Look

Bonnie Lee Johnson has agreed to be the new editor of the LWA Newsletter. She and her husband Chuck have lived on Fehrs Dr. NE since the fall of '02. However, they spent about 22 years coming up for vacations prior to moving up here. Bonnie Lee was editor of the Toastmasters International District 6 Newsletter for three years [1997-2000]. During two of those years the newsletter placed in the Top Ten out of 70 Districts worldwide. While she enjoyed that opportunity, she didn't consider it a "job cast in stone" and moved on to other challenges, like building and moving up to Lake Washburn. She's looking for reporters!

Treasurer's Report

The Lake Washburn Association's income from January through December 2006 was \$6,173.20: consisting of \$3,585 from membership dues; \$1,210 member contributions; \$970 business donations; \$408.20 interest income.

Expenditures in 2006 consisted of \$4,953.09 in routine expenditures and a one-time expenditure of \$2,700 for the

DNR Shoreland Project. Routine expenditures consisted of the following: insurance \$1,848; donations and memberships \$1,200; newsletters \$1,047.59; water quality testing \$760; office supplies and support \$55.24; postage \$42.26. The 2006 expenditures for the DNR Shoreland Project were fully funded by the grant (\$2,700) received in December 2005.

Memberships for 2006 totaled 224.

The LWA financial audit was completed in September 2006. I want to join the rest of the Board members in thanking Grace Schuller for her work on the audit.

Also, I would like to thank all of the members and business sponsors who contributed to LWA in 2006. Thank you for your continued support.

Jane Gaskill

LWA Treasurer

Outing Volunteer Library

Carol Pierce retired from Hennepin County Library in May '06 after 16 years of experience and volunteered to organize and administrate a crew of 20 volunteers and approve all books donated.

We currently have 6,000 volumes such as adult fiction and non-fiction, paperbacks and hard covers, teen, children's, and pre-school books, audio tapes, DVD's, videos (both children's and adult's) large print, current magazines, and more. There are no cards, no loan periods, no fines.

We have an exciting new

volunteer library in Outing. It is located on Woods Bay Drive off hwy 6 between the town hall and canister station in the old fire hall (tin siding). We are currently open Mon. 12-2, Wed. 4-6, and Sat. 9-12. We are expanding into additional space over the winter. All books are donated.

All the workers are volunteers. If you have books in good condition, please donate them. We take paperbacks, non-fiction, novels, and children's books. We would like to be open additional hours if more people would be willing to donate 6-10 hrs. per month.

Contact Carol at 218-792-5438.

Youth ATV Rider Training

The Outing "Over the Hill Gang" ATV club will again this year conduct ATV training for youth. All youth under the age of 16 must have state approved ATV training and certification in order to legally operate an ATV. Training can begin at age 11, leading to certification at age 12. Statistics have proven that youth training is an effective means of reducing ATV accidents as well as teaching youth to become responsible riders. As responsible adults and parents it is our place to insure that all youth riding ATV's from our homes are properly trained and certified. This is a great opportunity to do just that.

Training dates this year are: June 9th, August 4th and Oct.20th, with all sessions being held at 10:00 AM at the Outing town hall. **Call Ken LeVoir at 792-5176 for more details and pre-registration.**

Submitted by: Harold Cazier

Have you paid your 2006 Dues? Send check and membership form to LWA, PO Box 26, Outing, MN. Remember, it's tax deductible!!!

2007 Boat Monitoring Report

The 2007 Lake Washburn boat monitoring began on 11 May – opening fishing weekend. A total of 37 boats were checked for Eurasian Milfoil and other invasive species. All boaters surveyed knew the purpose of our survey and were very supportive and cooperative. Of the boats monitored, 25 were from Lake Washburn and just out of storage; 2 boats were new; and the rest were from other lakes.

Many thanks to the following volunteers: Richard Nellis, Gerald Ballard, Ron and Pat Behning, Ron and Jane Gaskill, Mark and Jackie Hegman.

We will be monitoring boats during the Memorial Day weekend – 25-28 May – and the 4th of July holiday weekend – 29 June through 1 July. Most campers in the Clint Converse Campground bring fishing boats that have been in other Minnesota and Wisconsin lakes, some that have been identified to contain milfoil. It is important we continue our boat monitoring program to reduce the risk of milfoil in our lake.

We do need volunteers so please take time at the June meeting to sign-up for a two hour shift. It's fun to do and worthwhile to preserve the quality of our lake.

Submitted by Ted Johnson, Pres.

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"VEGETARIAN."**

Youth Boat and Water Safety Class

Minnesota law requires that all youth 12-17 years of age must have a watercraft operator's permit (a youth operator's permit from another state is acceptable) or have someone at least 21 on board within reach of the controls in order to operate a watercraft that is over 25 hp.

Again this year the Cass County Sheriff's Department will conduct a Youth Boat and Water Safety Class for obtaining an operator's permit. The class will be held at the town hall in Outing on June 23, 07 at 9:00 AM. Classroom instruction will take place in the morning followed by a written examination that the participant must pass. Lunch will then be provided for the participants. In the afternoon the participants will demonstrate what they have learned by operating a boat with an engine over 25 hp under the supervision of a Sheriff's Deputy or a water patrol volunteer. When the participant successfully completes the examinations they will receive certification for a youth watercraft operator's permit.

A sign-up sheet for the class will be located at the Roosevelt BP store in Outing. If at all possible sign-up before the 23rd as this will help in determining how many to plan on for lunch. The participant should bring an approved life preserver with them to the class. If you are supplying transportation for a participant you should check with an instructor for an estimated class completion

Lake Washburn Association 2007 Board:

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"	Richard Nelles	218-792-5892
"	Jim Patterson	218-670-5307 / 612-827-7156
"	Roger Richters	218-792-5211
Publisher	Ted Johnson	(see above)
Editor	Bonnie Lee Johnson	218-792-5763

Deer Lake Association

Greetings Deer Lake Association members:

My name is Jeff Forester, and I am Executive Director of Minnesota Seasonal Recreational Property Owner's Association, and I am writing to you today because I believe that Minnesota's current tax policy unites all lakeshore owners, homesteaded or seasonal.

When MSRPO began, in 1993, our first goal was to lower the tax rate on cabins, which at the time was more than twice that on homesteaded property. In the early years, MSRPO made presentations at a number of Lake Association meetings, but got some resistance as many of the members of these associations were year round residents, and felt, rightly, that any gains MSRPO would affect their tax bills. As MSRPO lowered the tax rate on cabins, some of the tax burden did shift to homestead property. That is no longer the case. Cabin owners no longer have a tax rate problem. We have a tax bill problem, a problem of ballooning assessments, market pressure, and over-development, and this problem applies to all lakeshore owners. All lakeshore owner's Tax bills are rising. The same market pressures that impact cabins also impact homesteads.

Cabins get fewer state buy downs, no circuit breaker protection, no refunds. We pay the raw tax, so to speak, and so have more exposure to market pressures than homesteads. We are feeling the nip of the wringer first, but lakeshore homesteads are not far behind us. Cabins are like the canary in the coalmine, an indicator species for all lakeshore property owners.

Lakeshore property is increasing in value faster than any other property type in the state. As Limited Market Value phases out, the tax bills on homesteads and cabins will both rise precipitously. Any gains we make in reinstating LMV will benefit ALL lakeshore property owners. We are not currently pushing any bills that would shift taxes to lake home owners.

Second, the passage of Blue Waters would benefit ALL lakeshore property owners, even if they didn't own the required 300 feet of undeveloped land required to participate in the bill. Blue Waters would increase water quality, and would slow development on lakes.

And finally, even cabin's removal from the onerous state general tax would have no impact on homestead property. The burden would shift to Commercial/ Industrial property or to apartments, but homesteads would be held harmless. So, if you are thinking of homesteading your cabin, or if you own a lakeside home, realize that MSRPO is providing benefits to you.

Enclosed (*in original mailing*) is some material on Limited Market Value, and a newsletter from 2005 to give you a better understanding of our association. Or please check our web site at www.msrepo.org for more information.

Sincerely,
Jeff Forester
Executive Director,
MSRPO Coalition, Inc.

<p><i>This article was provided as an informational article. The Editor</i></p>
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Membership

Greetings fellow propertyowners. A new season at our beautiful Lake Washburn is about to start and it is time to send in your 2007 dues. There is a form in this Newsletter for your convenience.

Your annual dues are the main source of LWA income for the day-to-day operations.

LWA also supports local non-profit organizations such as the Outing Chamber of Commerce, Outing Quick Response, Crooked Lake and Remer Fire Departments and Remer Volunteer Ambulance Service.

If you would like to make an additional donation please indicate it on your 2007 membership form. Any amount no matter how small is appreciated. Membership and additional donations are TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

There is new leadership on the LWA Board this year. We look forward to working with the membership. Please talk to your lake friends and neighbors and urge them to join the LWA. 100% membership is not a dream, but a reality.

Thank You.

Mel Metz Don Gehrman
Membership Co-Chairs

The following 224 property owners (and immediate family members) were 2006 members of Lake Washburn Association. Those members listed in bold were new members in 2006. We would like to welcome the new members and thank all of you for your support. 2007 is off to a slow start. Please urge your neighbors to join!

Ahlquist, Gary & Karen
 Ahlquist, Keith
 Alberg, Marilyn
Anderson, Cynthia
 Anderson, Don & Connie
 Anderson, Jerry & Karen
 Anderson, Marje
 Appel, Marty & Karen
 Arf, Kevin
Avery, Karen & Lyle
 Baker, Ron & Nancy
 Ballard, Cecil & Carole
 Ballard, Gerald & Marie
Ballard, Tom & Susan
 Ballis, John & Marge
 Barker, Jeffrey & Renee
 Barker, Jim & Jeanine
 Barron, Edward
 Barron, Ruth
 Bear Paw Lodge,
 Beard, Robert & Rita
 Behning, Ron & Pat
 Bendt, Kyle & April
 Benzel, Ken & Jennifer
 Benzel, Sharon
 Bierstedt, Bob & Judy
 Blackmon, Rick & Michelle
 Blaisdell, Kim & Mary Jo
 Borgwardt, Fred & Arline
 Braun, Larry
 Brinkman, Tom & Marlies
 Brodersen, Don & Barbara
 Bullis, Ruth
 Callander, Harlow & Mary
 Champion, Jim & Perri
 Carlisle, Todd & Kellie
Carlson, Kenneth
 Carlson, Lillian
 Carlson, Terry & Fran
 Carr, Corey & Victoria
 Carr, Nancy
 Cartwright, Bill & Eileen
Cartwright, Paul & Donna
 Cartwright, Paul & Elizabeth
 Cartwright, Todd & Kami
 Cazier, Harold & Janice
 Chapman, Bob & Laurene
 Chinquist, Fred
 Coleman, George (Bob) & Leone
 Consoer, Steve & Sherrie
 Coughlin, Timothy & Nancy
 Dahlager, Ken & Sonja
 Davis, Darwin & Laurie
 Davis, Lawrence & Joy
 Dawson, Keith & Donna
 Deans, Ken
 DeVries, Steve & Hallie
 Doebler, Bob & Dorine
 Downey, Art
 Downey, Bruce
Downey, Mark & Marguerite

DuBay, Donald & Diane
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Erickson, Walter & Nancy
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 Fellerer, Bob & Barbra
 Filzen, Dee
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 Fortmeyer, Phil & Caroline
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 Gabel, Gary & Sue
 Gaskill, Ronald & Jane
 Gehrman, Don & Mary
 Geyer, Bob & Mary
 Gilbertson, Greg & Diana
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 Johnson, Ted & Daniela
 Johnston, Dave & Leann
 Jubert, Richard & Helen
 Judd, Janis & Dave
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 Kaske, Al & Sandy
 Kaske, Andrew & Kae
 Knox, Barry & Nancy
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 Kroehnert, Paul & Joan
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 Thomas, Matt & Judy
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 Trummel, Gary & Geri
 VonBrugger, George & Dolores
 Wahl, Al
 Wahl, Donald & Carol
 Wahl, Eric & Lynette
 Wahl, Tom & Barb
 Waters, Cliff & Marilyn
 Westman, Doris
 Wheeler, Jon
 Wheeler, Virginia
 Whiteley, Bill & Becca
 Whiteley, Margaret
 Whiteley, Terry & Diane
 Wilder, Mike & Sue
 Williams, Larry & Sharon
 Wraalstad, Gregory & Wendy
 Zerwas, Jim & Mary

% of Members in each Lake Area	
Birch Bay / Bear Paw / Hwy 48	42%
Eastburn Road	44%
Fehrs Road/ Lois Lane	55%
Iowa Camp	65%
Longwood Point	55%
Peninsula Road	57%
Plummer Point	67%
West Washburn	72%

Fisheries Committee

This past December, John Harris, Ron McKinley and Harold Cazier had another productive meeting with the DNR fisheries people in Brainerd. The following is a condensed list of the meeting objectives, topics and some of the input and comments received from the DNR.

It is the opinion of the above LWA members that our on going work with the DNR is paying dividends and that a good working relationship exists between our association and the DNR. A recent example of this came as a result of the electro fishing that was done in Oct. 06. Results from the walleye count were just slightly above the point that would indicate no stocking in 2006. However, excess fingerlings became available and Washburn (as opposed to another lake) received 750# of fingerlings in 2006.

Objective of Meeting: LWA and the DNR have been working together to improve the water quality and the game fish population in Lake Washburn. Testing has been conducted; stocking has occurred in each of the last two years; and, walleye spawning beds have been identified. Now it is time to re-examine objectives of both the DNR and the LWA to make sure they are aligned and that next steps are identified along with a time line and responsibility assignment.

General: Improved electro-fishing test results, fact or fluke: *When an improvement in walleye testing results is of the magnitude we saw in 2006, the test is considered to be fairly accurate. This is the second best result since testing began in 1999. It is anticipated that testing will occur again in 2007 and beyond.*

Stocking of walleyes in near future:

There is natural reproduction occurring in Washburn but it is at a fairly low level and it appears to be sporadic. No identifiable factor

accounts for the sporadic nature. Regardless of test results, the DNR will only stock a fish in two of every three years. This is to help avoid depletion of the food chain for the fish. Washburn was stocked in 2005 and 2006. Consequently, no walleye stocking will occur in 2007. We will again be eligible for consideration again in 2008. Electro fishing will be done every year to sample the year of the young. To date, the DNR has not found an economically feasible method of "tagging" stocked fish so that they can be identified in later tests.

- ◆ Slot-limits on walleyes and northern:
Slot limits need to be specifically designed for each lake, there is no "one size fits all." In deciding to install slot limits, we have to consider how many fish that are now caught and kept would be caught and released with a slot limit. In-as-much-as fishing on Washburn has not been great, the answer is probably, "not very many." Given that, it doesn't seem to make much sense in establishing a program that will cause aggravation while not generating much in results. Education is the key...keep communicating about catch and release..
- ◆ Bass increasing? If so, implications:
While some think the bass population is increasing, there is no hard evidence to that effect. It would not be unusual for this to happen as a lake goes through it's life cycle. And, if true, studies in Wisconsin would seem to indicate that there will be a detrimental effect on the walleye population...as the bass population increases the walleye population seems to decrease. There is really nothing to be done about this. Learn to enjoy bass fishing.
- ◆ The only currently planned DNR work for this summer on our lake will be the Fall electro-fishing for walleye year of the young. Netting studies are being done on a 3 year rotating basis.

*Report prepared by John Harris
Submitted by Harold Cazier*

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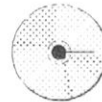
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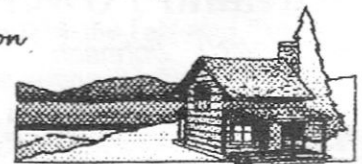
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Rest in Peace

Lawrence Pattock from Eastburn Road died on March 26, at North Memorial Hospital in Robbinsdale Minnesota, from cardiac arrest, he was 90 years old. Lawrence had been coming up to the Outing Remer area since the 60's where he purchased a cabin on Lake Roosevelt and eventually came to Washburn...He loved Lake Washburn and always said that time stood still there because it felt like heaven to him...He and his wife Florence who passed in 2003 loved to go to Longville and shop and eat dinner..They attended the Catholic church in Emily. Lawrence had a great relationship with nature and loved to just be outdoors doing anything and especially loved to fish...he will always be there in spirit.

Ann Pattock Golden Valley Mn.

Update on Stocking

*Article sent to Northland News by Harold Cazier,
LWA Board Member and Fisheries Committee Chair*

Thought you might find the attached photos of use in the paper as a local interest story/photo.

Facts are as follows:

Lake Washburn Association fisheries committee has been working very closely with the DNR in hopes of improving the fisheries in Washburn. We are encouraged by the cooperation we are getting from the DNR and feel that others would find this of interest.

This stocking of 500 pounds of walleye fingerlings on 10-30-06 is the second stocking of fingerlings since the Brainerd DNR fisheries group completed a 5 year study of the lake which began in 1999. They will be adding another 250 pounds in a week. In the Fall of 05 stocking was done when 750# of fingerlings were put in the lake. Results from the electro fishing done by the DNR on 09-28-06 indicated that Washburn has some active natural reproduction and the last year's stocking of fingerlings has been effective.

Due to this year's warm and dry weather, fingerling production in the DNR operated rearing ponds was very light. The DNR supplements their production with fingerlings from private growers. Fingerlings placed in Washburn this year came from Bosek Fisheries, one of many private growers that help supplement the DNR's supply.

Both myself and Howard Dutton were present to see the introduction of these fingerlings to the lake.

New State Law - Re: Firewood

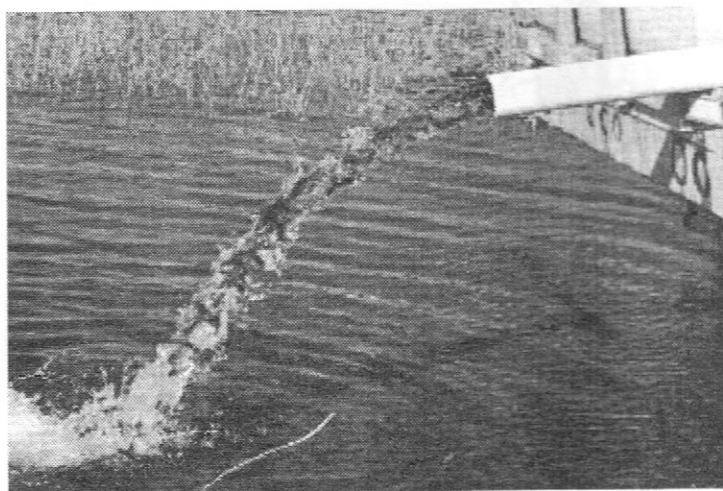
A new state law now limits the wood that can be brought onto lands administered by the Minnesota DNR, such as State Parks and State Forests.

Approved firewood would include:

1. Firewood offered for sale by vendors currently under contact with the DNR.
2. Firewood offered for sale by vendors who have successfully completed an application process requiring that two conditions be met:
 - The wood must have originated on lands within Minnesota and within 100 miles of the park or forest where it will be used.
 - The vendor must provide a proof of purchase to customers.
3. Kiln-dried wood such as unpainted and unstained dimension lumber of kindling that is free of any metal or foreign substance.

Thank you for your interest in the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources!

To submit comments or request information about Minnesota Department of Natural Resources policies or practices, please e-mail info@dnr.state.mn.us.



(Literally) Fish being downloaded into East Basin of Lake Washburn.

MPCA Offers Clean Water Tips

With summer on its way, many Minnesotans will be performing the time honored ritual of opening the lake cabin for the summer. But with more than 1,000 lakes on the state's impaired waters list, and more being added, cabin owners have extra incentive to make sure they're taking steps to help protect lakes from pollution. Here are some tips from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to keep in mind for the start of the new season:

- ◆ Do you keep your shoreline in natural condition? If not maybe this year is the year to make the switch. Simply leaving an unmown buffer at the shoreline can be a big help to water quality. Also, leaving "emergent" aquatic vegetation (shallow-water plants) in place provides great habitat for fish.
- ◆ Avoid fertilizing the lawn. Nutrient runoff is a primary source of water pollution.
- ◆ Take care of your septic tank. Not sure when to get it pumped out? It depends on how much water you use. Seasonal properties may get by for years without pumping. On the other hand, if you use a lot of water, every three years may not be enough. Ask your county or University of Minnesota Extension Service.
- ◆ Protect the waterfowl on your lake by exchanging lead-containing fishing tackle for new, lead-free gear.
- ◆ When cleaning up outside, remember that backyard garbage burning is illegal statewide, even for cabins. There are some exceptions to the law, but they're for farmers only. For more information on backyard garbage burning go to www.pca.state.mn.us/oea/reduce/burnbarrel.cfm. For more information on obtaining the appropriate permit for burning approved vegetation, contact your local fire marshal or Department of Natural Resources office.
- ◆ Don't drain last year's gas from the mower or outboard onto the ground; use it up by mixing with fresh fuel.
- ◆ Does your lake have a lake association? Consider joining it or starting one. Water quality is one of the primary concerns for such groups.
- ◆ Become a volunteer water monitor. MPCA has volunteer monitoring programs for both lakes and streams and would love to hear from you.

Minnesotans love our lakes. Keeping them clean is everybody's job. For more information on how to protect lakes and improve water quality, check the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's website at www.pca.state.mn.us/water/lake.html.



DNR Question of the Week

- Wayne Mueller, DNR Aquatic Plant Specialist

Q: Weedrollers have become a popular tool for eliminating unwanted vegetation along the shoreline, especially in the Brainerd Lakes area. What sort of problems do they cause for fish and water quality?

A: Mechanical devices, such as weedrollers, are commonly used to control aquatic vegetation in public waters and their use is regulated by the DNR through the issuing of permits. Not all sites are suitable for the operation of these devices, however. Although they can be an effective method of controlling vegetation, these machines can have a negative impact on lakes, which is an area of concern when it comes to lake management. The potentially harmful affects of the loss of aquatic plants are felt by a wide variety of species, including waterfowl, invertebrates, amphibians and fish. Specifically weedrollers can decrease water clarity by displacing sediment and destroy fish spawning beds and nursery areas, and potentially impact recreational activities. Lakeshore owners should be aware of these tradeoffs when considering using such devices. A proper permit should be obtained before using any mechanical vegetation removal device.

LWA Website

You may have noticed our website is not up to date and by now you may not be able to reach the site. This is due to the fact that our web host, the old Minnesota Lakes Org., which has become Minnesota Waters, is re-doing their complete system. We are currently studying the new system requirements and hope to have a new LWA site up and running some time this summer. Stay tuned for more information.

The new website address is:
www.minnesotawaters.org/LWA

The new email address will be:
LWA@minnesotawaters.org

**PLEASE WAIT UNTIL
MID-JUNE BEFORE USING.**

Conservation Easements—Good Tax Planning Tool!

Want to save some money on taxes, and maintain your privacy on your property for generations to come?

One option available to you is a conservation easement. Think of your property rights as a bundle of sticks. One stick allows you to build on the lot. Another allows you to harvest timber or minerals. A third might be the right to hunt. You can give any of these rights away, and get a tax deduction.

An example might be that you own 20 Acres and 400 frontage on the lake. Your cabin and guest cabin only occupy 200 feet of frontage and you do not want to have more structures on the land. You would give an easement to a non-profit which was that you would not subdivide and build any structures on the undeveloped portion of the lot.

Why would you do this! Well, the tax code allows you a charitable tax deduction equal to the loss in value you suffered when you gave away the easement. So back to our example. Say the market value of your land and buildings before recording an easement was \$1,000,000. After recording the easement(s) your land was estimated to have a value of \$600,000. The difference of \$400,000 is a tax deduction which you can use on your tax return. Depending on your tax situation that deduction might be worth over \$150,000 in real cash savings on your tax bill.

Where do you start? Contact Ted Johnson (612 619 6533) and I can discuss your situation with you.



Lake Washburn Association

Newsletter

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