



Lake Washburn Association NEWSLETTER

June 1998

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More Weeds
Every year the weeds
seem to get worse and
they continue to do so



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*Summary of 1998
Minnesota Personal
Watercraft...*

BIRCH BAY PARADE

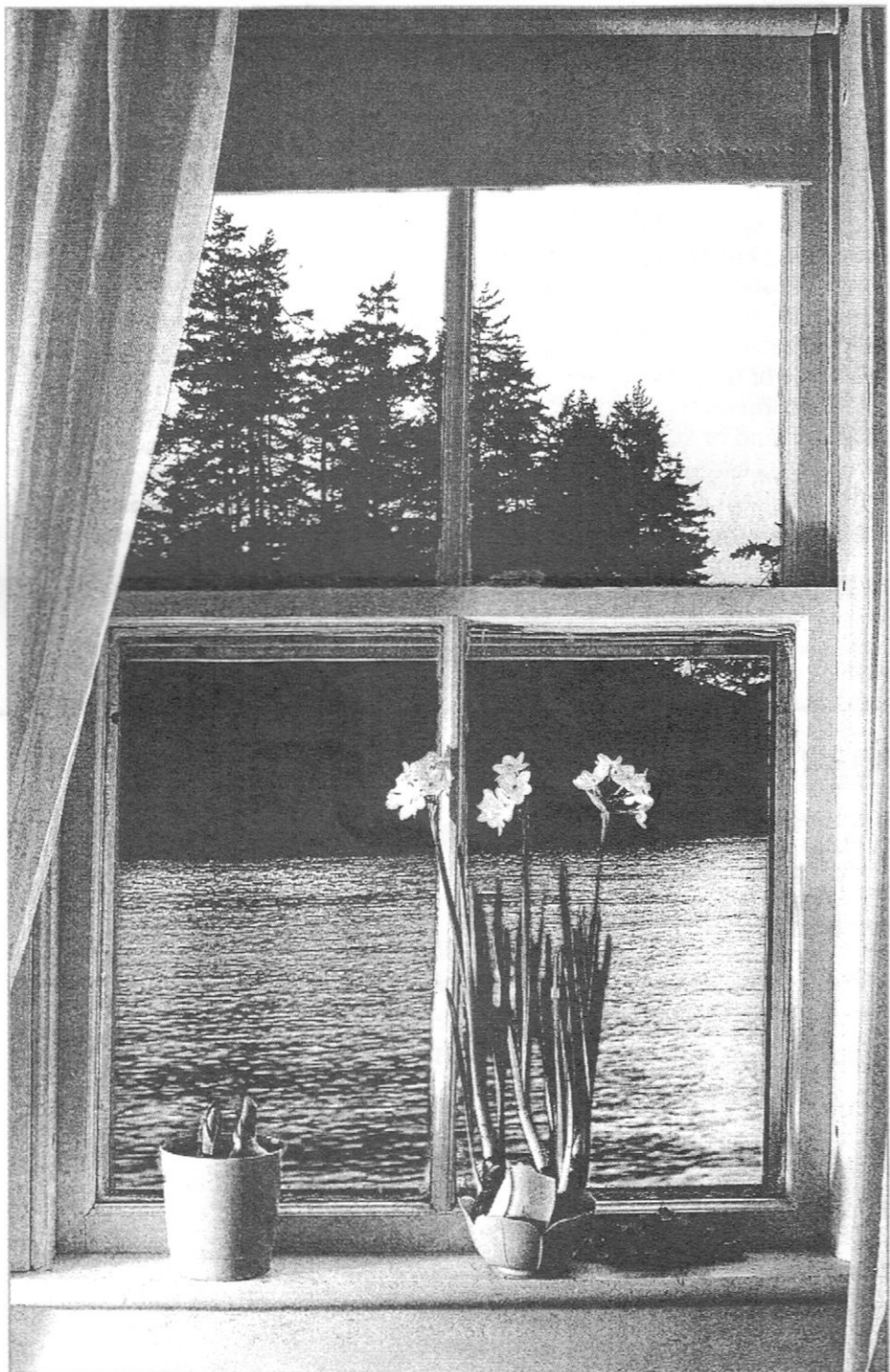
The annual boat parade will be held on Saturday, July 4th. Boats should begin assembling in front of Schuller's in Birch Bay at 1:00 P.M.

The route of the parade is from Birch Bay, traveling counter-clockwise around the bay, then past Bear Paw Point and up to Longwood Point.

Decorate your boat and join in. Everyone is welcome to join this celebration of the Birth of our Nation.

Grace Schuller

Note: See Page 3 for route map



My Backyard



FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Pat Behning



I recently attended the Lake Show sponsored by the Minnesota Lakes Association. I was a representative of the LWA

Board. Great emphasis was put on shoreline management and water quality. Seminars entitled "Lakescaping For Wildlife and Water Quality", "Protecting Aquatic Plants For Habitat", and "Lake Friendly Lawns" were among those I attended. In this issue of the newsletter you will find information on water quality and land or lakescaping. This information is essential for us in order to maintain a quality lake for those who follow.

Also included in this issue are two very interesting articles by lake residents. I wish to thank them personally for sharing with us. May I also encourage any of you who have items of interest to Lake Washburn property owners to send them to me for inclusion in future newsletters.

Please take note of DATES TO REMEMBER. The Board and I would very much appreciate your participation in our summer meetings and activities.

Again let me encourage you to let any Board member know of any concern you may have. Most of the comments we receive are about the fishing quality or the lack thereof. As a Board we do communicate with the DNR. We can only hope to encourage them to work toward improving the fishing on our lake; they, however, have the power to do as they deem appropriate. The DNR has specific guidelines and rules they follow regarding fish stocking etc.

Another concern are the buoys that are placed in Lake Washburn. The Sheriff's Department is responsible for them, however, we do have volunteers on the lake that assist them and do the actual placement. You know your area of the lake better than anyone so please keep a Board member advised of potential dangers and we will do what we can in getting the buoys where they are needed.

Individuals are welcome and encouraged to join the Minnesota Lakes Association (MLA). For further information on benefits and cost of membership you may call 1 - 800 - 515 - LAKE. Through your membership you will receive a quarterly magazine and much helpful / pertinent information.

Pat Behning

1998 LWA OFFICERS / DIRECTORS

The following are the 1998 LWA Officers and Directors. Please feel free to call and talk with any of them with you concerns about Lake Washburn and the association.

Officers:

President:	Pat Behning	218-792-5111
Vice Pres:	Ron Nichols	218-792-5386 / 515-278-4459
Secretary:	Don Peterson	218-792-5257
Treasurer:	Marje Anderson	218-792-5317 / 612-241-8333

West Washburn Road
 Peninsula Road
 Longwood Point
 Eastburn Road



Directors:

Fred Borgwardt	218-792-5740
Harold Hegman	218-792-5442
Rolie Hron	218-792-5517 / 612-934-8050
Cleone Riener	612-483-4497
George Fortmeyer	218-792-5416 / 612-631-0154
LaVon Heston	218-792-5455 / 515-282-6432
Mark Hegman	218-792-5499 / 612-920-2392

Longwood Point
 Plummer's Point
 Peninsula Road
 Fehr's Road
 Fehr's Road
 Birch Bay
 Peninsula Road



ASSOCIATION OF CASS COUNTY LAKES

The Association of Cass County Lake (ACCL) was organized in 1988 to bring together all the Officers of established individual Lake Associations within Cass County, thereby pooling their many talents toward working together, to preserve/protect the water quality of the lakes within the county.

ACCL is governed by an eight member Board of Directors, four officers and four additional individual Board members. Informative ACCL membership meeting are held each year during May, June, July, August, and September at Patrick's Restaurant in Longville, MN. ACCL currently enjoys a membership of 28 individual Lake Associations (Lake Washburn Association is a member) that jointly represents 35 lakes stretching from Upper Gull Lake to Leech Lake within Cass County. In addition, the 28 individual Lake Associations represent in excess of 3,000 private lakeshore property owners.

The purpose of ACCL is;

- a. to assist private lakeshore owners in organizing a permanent Lake Association,
- b. to identify and analyze environmental problems and other

issues that impact water quality,

c. to develop guidelines relating to the development, improvement, and preservation of shorelands,

d. to work cooperatively with the TRI-COUNTY LEECH LAKE WATERSHED PROJECT and the LEECH LAKE WATERSHED AREA FOUNDATION to enhance the protection of the waters and shorelands within Cass County,

e. to participate with other county-wide Lake Associations in sharing ideas and information.

Some of the items that will be addressed at this year's meeting are as follows:

- a. Leech Lake Watershed Area Foundation
- b. Development of the new management plan for the Chippewa National Forest
- c. Hydro-lab
- d. Restoring natural plants to lake shorelines.
- e. Water quality
- f. Minnesota Land Trust Programs
- g. Changes to ordinances regarding sewage systems, land use or nonshore land, and subdivision/platting.

John Houston, LWA representative to ACCL, will be attending these meetings. If you have any concerns or would like to attend a meeting, please contact him at 218 - 792 - 5440.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Adopt-A-Highway: Members of LWA will be cleaning the roadside along County Highway 48 from State Highway 6 to the end of the paved road at 9:00 A.M. on Saturday, July 4th, and again on Saturday, September 5, 1998.

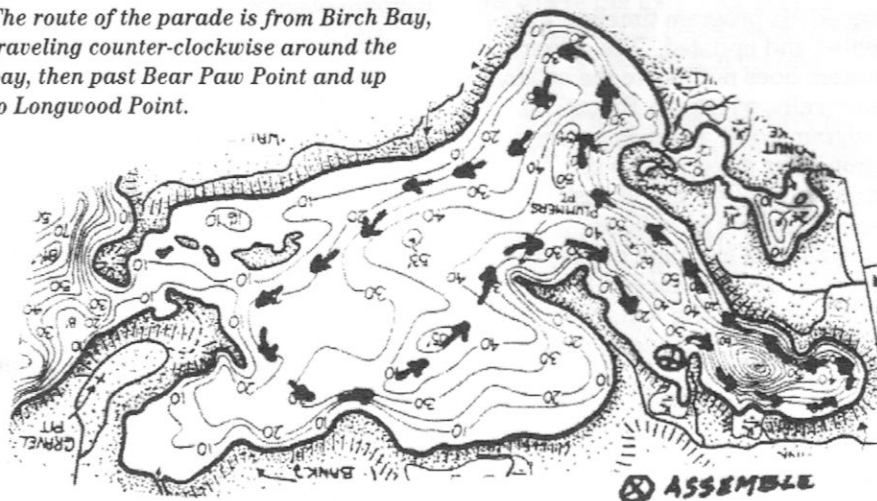
Please join us, as many workers make for a quick and easy job. Be sure to wear gloves, and boots if rainy. Contact Ron Nichols at 218 - 792 - 5386 for more details.

Boat Monitoring: The public access ramp will be the location for monitoring boats entering and leaving Lake Washburn during the Fourth of July weekend. The same monitoring will take place during the Labor Day weekend. Many volunteers are needed to cover these three day periods. For further information contact Cleone Riener at 612 - 483 - 4497 or George Fortmeyer at 218 - 792 - 5416 or 612 - 631 - 0154. A special thank you to those people who helped with the road clean-up and the boat monitoring during the Memorial Day weekend. Your efforts benefit us all.

General Meeting: The first General Meeting of the Lake Washburn Association will be held on Saturday, June 13, 1998. The Board will meet at 8:00 A.M. The meeting for the membership will begin with coffee at 9:00, followed by the business meeting at approximately 9:30. We will meet in the Outing Town Hall. Everyone is encouraged to attend and spend some time with lake neighbors. Our guest speaker will be Ken Levoir. The second annual Ice Cream Social will be held on August 8, 1998. The Board will meet at 8:00 A. M. at the Outing Town Hall. The General Meeting will begin at 7:00 P.M. with the Ice Cream Social followed by the General Meeting. We hope to see you there.

From Cover: Birch Bay Parade

The route of the parade is from Birch Bay, traveling counter-clockwise around the bay, then past Bear Paw Point and up to Longwood Point.





HELP WANTED AND NEEDED

The newsletter staff needs your help..

- Please notify any LWA board member if you know of any property being sold or purchased. Having the new owners' names gives us the opportunity to invite them to become members or our association and to give them information about the lake.

- Any one with a story or anecdote about Lake Washburn, current or historical, is invited to share it with the newsletter staff. In this issue you will find two such items. Thanks to Marge Swartfager and Bob Lundquist for their contributions. In our next newsletter look for an article submitted by Barb Dutton.

- A picture to share with others about Lake Washburn would be appreciated also. If you have any you would like to see included in the newsletter, please notify a board member.

- Any and all concerns and comments are welcome. The board has a limited capacity to change or even influence regulatory bodies, but does want to address current issues with those agencies and persons who make decisions pertaining to our area lakes, Lake Washburn in particular.

CROOKED LAKE TOWNSHIP

- Chairperson** - Bill Korman 792 - 5144
- Clerk** - Glen Mechelke 792 - 5247
- Treasurer** - Pat Faul 792 - 5110
- Supervisors** - Fred Borgwardt 792 - 5740
- Vise-chairperson*
- Road Supervisor*
- Chuck Fairbanks 792 - 5336
- Roger Fancher 792 - 5103
- Properties and Canisters*
- Larry Gibbs 792 - 5586
- Weed Inspector*

LOCAL MILFOIL UPDATE

Information in the Roosevelt and Lawrence Area Lakes Association (RALALA) April, 1998 newsletter gave an update on the Eurasian Milfoil situation in Ruth Lake.

The Ruth Lake Association and The Pine River Watershed Protection Foundation are working closely with the DNR to contain and control the problem in Ruth Lake. Bob Becker of the PRWRF said that surveillance on the rest of the watershed will be maintained. "It is very apparent that prevention of spread is the effective control," Mr. Becker stated.

In June of 1997, 4.5 acres on the northern shoreline of Ruth Lake was treated with a selected herbicide and in July 3.5 acres on the southern shoreline was treated. Again in August a twelve acre area in the north end of the lake was treated. On August 26th, no live milfoil plants were located in the lake. The DNR will again monitor Ruth Lake in 1998.

911

ENHANCED 911 MAY MEAN ADDRESS CHANGES

In a news release issued March 20, 1998 by the Cass County Board, the Enhanced 911 program timeline was presented and updated. The current 911 system does not locate the caller automatically, which the Enhanced 911 program does. In an emergency situation clear directions to the location are a must. In the past emergency people have been misdirected and lost time getting to an emergency. The Enhanced 911 system will read your call and will respond in a much more efficient and expedient manner.

To help achieve this goal, property owners and other residents of the county can look forward to address changes over the next several months.

In early to mid - May it was anticipated that property owners would receive a notice from the county in the mail advising them of the new rural address assigned to any properties they own, where a primary structure is located. However, it appears that this time line has been delayed.

Primary structures are homes, commercial buildings, single or multiple family rental housing, etc. Seasonal property owners that receive rural delivery of mail at their Cass County rural address will be asked to confirm the new address with their local postmaster. If mail is received at a P O box, the address will not change.

Shortly after the mailing, each local post office will have the new county assigned address in their system and will begin to deliver mail to the new rural address. The time line for this will vary due to the variations in rural deliver routes, etc. All mail will be delivered with the old address and the new address for at least one year under post office forwarding regulations.

A system of road signs and house numbers is being devised to complete the rural addressing system. Installation is targeted to be complete by the fall of 1998. The house (or address) number will be installed where the driveway entrance leaves the main, named road; similar to the old "fire number" which will now become obsolete.

The Cass County Sheriff's Dispatch Center hopes to begin implementation of the Enhanced 911 system in the fall of 1998. For more information on the project call 218 - 537 - 7260 or 1 - 888 - 547 - 3374.



LOON WATCH

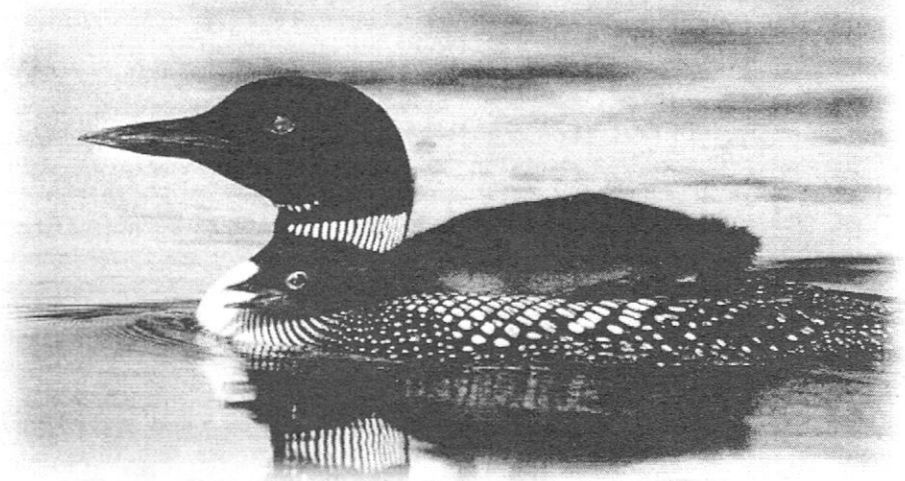
In 1986 Denny Olson, Director of Minnesota Preservation Project, was looking for volunteers to be loon rangers. I've always admired this great bird, so I volunteered.

There used to be loons in Iowa, Illinois, and Ohio; but those areas haven't had any for many years. Minnesota ranks No. 1 among the lower 48 states in loons. In fact, it has more loons than all other states, except Alaska. Estimates are that there are from 3,000 to 5,000 pairs of nesting loons in the state.

In July 1989 the Minnesota DNR Non-Game Wildlife Program conducted a one-day count. They chose lakes of 10 to 1,700 acres. They surveyed 5 percent of Minnesota lakes. The largest lake surveyed was 23,000 acres. This was Mud Lake, which is on the national wildlife refuge in Marshall County in northwestern Minnesota. No loons were sighted on that lake. Many of the lakes surveyed had no loons; however, we on Lake Washburn were very fortunate.

Loons are susceptible to changes in lake water quality (acidification, leaky septic systems, erosion, etc.), over-development of shorelines, and intensive lake recreation. High speed boats and personal watercraft (i.e., jet skis) have been a big problem on most lakes. When water is high, the big boats create large waves that wash out the nests. Some water skiers have actually said, "If wildlife gets in the way, so be it!" And these were mature adults. A common problem is that boaters get too close to the loons and prompt them to go into their famous loon dance. The boaters then want to stick around and watch; not realizing it's really a distress call.

When loons establish loon territory, they depend upon this lake as an important feeding or staging water. Loons need an ample supply of small fish to feed their young and themselves. Raccoons, crows, gulls, and eagles are loon egg predators. Snapping turtles and large fish have also been known to destroy the young loon chicks.



As soon as the ice is out, the males arrive - females shortly thereafter. Loons select islands or secluded bays for their homes. The nest is built near the waters edge because the adults can't walk on land. Usually two eggs are laid one day apart. The parents alternate sitting on the eggs for about one month. Chicks hatch one or two days apart and are escorted by their parents to the "nursery" - a shallow, calm, and secluded cove. Chicks are born black and at three weeks turn chocolate brown.

The latest hatch I've ever seen on Lake Washburn was on July 10. If no chicks are seen by the second week in July, we can assume there will not be any. The DNR has furnished the plans for a nesting raft. This should not be necessary if nesting in old nests is successful. I would appreciate a call if you observe anything interesting or unusual; paying particular attention to where the loon's nursery is. Remember the best time to count chicks is the first and second weeks of July.

Some loon watchers have reported seeing visiting loons land and being welcomed by the resident pair. If this is the case, there is probably not a nest. Had there been a chick or two, visiting loons would not be allowed to stay - they would be chased off until at least August or September.

We have not had a good survival rate of chicks. Since starting the program I have not noticed any

additional pairs. The survival rate of chicks until August is not real good, but neither is it bad. There have been 17 chicks hatched, with 10 surviving. The most survived in the early part of the program.

Twice I have had to speak to boaters about loons. One problem on East Lake is when dogs are allowed to go out in fishing boats. When the dogs need to go to the bathroom, they are let out on the islands. This is where the loon nests are and the dogs, in the course of exploring nature, upset the loons.

One of the unfortunate incidents reported last year, that should serve as a lesson to all of us, involved a fishing rod, complete with a baited minnow, left resting on a dock. The bait hung down into the water and was taken by a loon. When the loon was finally caught, the line had to be cut - the loon had swallowed the hook and the minnow.

By Marge Swartfager 3/98





REMEMBERING ALICE MECHELKE

by Robert E. Lundquist

It was the summer of 1952. My family was vacationing at Peterson's Resort (now Call of the Loon) on Lake Roosevelt. Our next door neighbors in St. Paul, the Swansons, had found this other resort, Birch Bay Lodge on Lake Washburn. We tried to get a cabin there at the same time, but as my folks found out, a stay on Birch Bay was in demand and one had to get in line for reservations. One day we went up to visit "Uncle Milt", Jake, daughter Linda, and one of our best buddies, Bill "Swanny" Swanson, their son. If memory serves, they were staying in a cabin we now own (life can take such interesting turns). In any event, from that day forward, though I was only five years old, we were in love with the lake and with Birch Bay. I can still see a wiry, chipper figure down on that beautiful beach raking away, humming occasionally. One felt a remarkable sense of kindness in her, a love of children, together with a pride that "the kids" were enjoying the woods and the beautiful lake.

Our family returned to Birch Bay every summer thereafter as guests of the Mechelkes. As we children got older, we tended to push the envelope, as boys in particular are wont to do, with regard to our conduct, explorations, and shenanigans. "Grandma Alice" however, was not one to be trifled with, and we all knew that, no matter how evident it was that she loved the children, it would not be wise to cross any lines within her radar. Whether it was catching frogs to blow up with firecrackers smuggled in from South Dakota (something I would not allow my children to do ... "do as I say, not as I did") or being careless in how we pointed the bow and arrow on the Birch Bay archery range (long before there were too many attorneys, paranoid insurance companies, and at a time when parents taught their kids common sense and we worried more about what our folks would do to us

than what the law would do if we got out of line), even if we got by our folks, the ubiquitous Alice would steer us right with her uncanny ability to be stern, yet kind at the same time. In retrospect her lines were, of course, based upon our safety and on civility to those around us. Washburn was better than Disneyland because Alice always had ideas for new forms of fun. Sooner or later, she became "Grandma Alice" to all who came into contact with her.

As the hard work of our parents bore fruit, a one week stay at the lake turned into two weeks, then three. Alice did not slow down. She was always tending to something, either the store in the lodge where we bought penny candy, or on the beach, or supervising her granddaughters in the clean up of cabins (and, of course, cleaning some herself). On any given day kids would ask Grandma Alice if her husband Ed had caught any Walleyes the night before. I can still see his silhouette in that old red and white wooden fishing boat heading out as the sun got low, by himself, elbow over the outboard throttle cocked at the same angle every night, the pastels of the waning day shimmering off his wake. (Even if the fishing was rotten, he always brought back a nice one or two.) She would smile and say "Yeah, he got a couple" trying hard to mask her pride. We would have to pester her to reveal the weight of the fish, and even then it was usually underestimated.

Alice always had one of the best gardens around, taking particular pride in her tomatoes. Anyone who showed an interest would be treated with all manner of secrets and tips. Later, I wanted to have her see my pretty-good tomatoes in Arizona, and invited her there (Pat, Glenn, Barb, Larry, Kim and all the kids, as well) every year after I moved out west. But, she never did make it. I guess I wanted to show her in some small way the wonderful influence she had been on all of us.

In her later years, she would

reminisce about times past, and always related a story specific to whomever she was conversing with, eyes sparkling and smiles forthcoming. When I was in high school in the early 1960s, we lost our eleven year-old sister. Every year thereafter Grandma Alice would have a story about Lynn Marie - she made those around her feel that everything was all right and that life was simply taking its course, even if the rhyme or reason of the Good Lord's course escaped us.

Grandma Alice left us a few years back. I last saw her in the summer of 1993, I think it was. In her eighties, she was succumbing to the maladies of older age, and from time to time she was down in Crosby for specialized care. I stopped in to see her and we visited for some time, her eyes still twinkling, but somehow betraying her awareness that the candle was about burned out. As we piled the family back into the Suburban for the long trip back to the desert southwest, the kids wondered why Dad was a little misty. I did the best I could to explain the magic that she and her family had given us in the great northwoods.

Though we can not see her anymore, Grandma Alice is still there - in that pristine, kaleidoscope of the starry night sky, in the woods, and in the waters of beautiful Lake Washburn.

Bob Lundquist is a lawyer in Tucson, Arizona. He, brother Ron (Chicago) and sister Lee Ann Matthews (Outing by way of Wyoming) have two of the cabins built by the Mechelkes on Birch Bay. "God willing and the creek don't rise" this summer will mark the 46th year in a row the family returns to the Lake.



MORE WEEDS IN MY LAKE

Every year the weeds seem to get worse and they shall continue to do so.

Natural eutrophication is the name for the gradual and natural process of filling in the lakes. The occurs because of all the forces of nature at work; adding nutrients and washing fill into the lakes. Phosphorous is a major player in this problem because it is the limiting nutrient in the cycle of water biology.

Phosphorous is added naturally to lakes in rain, snow, stream flow, organic material, and soil washing from erosion. The normal phosphorous content of soil is thousands of times greater than in pristine lake water, but is mostly insoluble.

Now we consider people and their use and enjoyment of these lakes.

This impact is termed cultural eutrophication and includes everything that nature does not. We can literally make lakes old before their time. Mankind impacts and degrades the water in the following ways

- Septic insult. A malfunctioning septic system continues to leach nutrients through the ground water long after repair.

- Improper law fertilization. Phosphorous in fertilizer is very soluble and leaches easily into the lake. Use only non-phosphorous fertilizers.

- Bonfires and wood ash leaching. Wood ashes contain a significant amount of highly soluble phosphorous and should be controlled or retrieved from shore areas. A metal fire pot is very helpful.

- Shoreline erosion from improper landscaping or from under artificial beaches, which have destabilized the original topsoil and allow undercutting from rain and wave action.

- Agricultural runoff from field use and livestock exposure.

- Stream impact. Natural stream flows are quite pristine but many cultural practices can severely affect them. Deforestation, earth moving, septic discharge, trash and many other insults are heaped upon our streams

- Sediment disturbance. The normal phosphorous cycle ends up with the excess precipitated in the form of sediment or new soil on the bottom. Any disturbance of this layer re-activates some of this weed growing activity. These disturbances include weed rollers, weed cutting or raking, shallow watercraft and many other recreational activities..

- Unnatural runoff of water from urban areas, parking lots, highways, and especially building sites preparation, makes a significant impact of phosphorous and other unwanted elements

- Any organic input, weeds debris, lawn clippings or trash

If all of this sounds like a tough situation, it is. Lake Basins are monitored for long term phosphorous buildup. Unfortunately, this does not reflect local conditions along shoreline areas.

This cycle cannot be reversed or backed up. Our best efforts can only slow it down. If you are hearing more and more outcry about water quality, it is because now, with rapidly increasing use of the lake, and intensive development, the situation is becoming critical. We may not need exotic water plant species to ruin our lakes. We have the ability to do it ourselves.

Bob Becker - Pine River Watershed Protection Foundation.

Lake Washburn NEWSLETTER LAYOUT/DESIGN

Greetings,

Design has been my book of life. And now it's time for a new chapter. I'd like to personally invite you to...

<http://www.aldodesign.com>

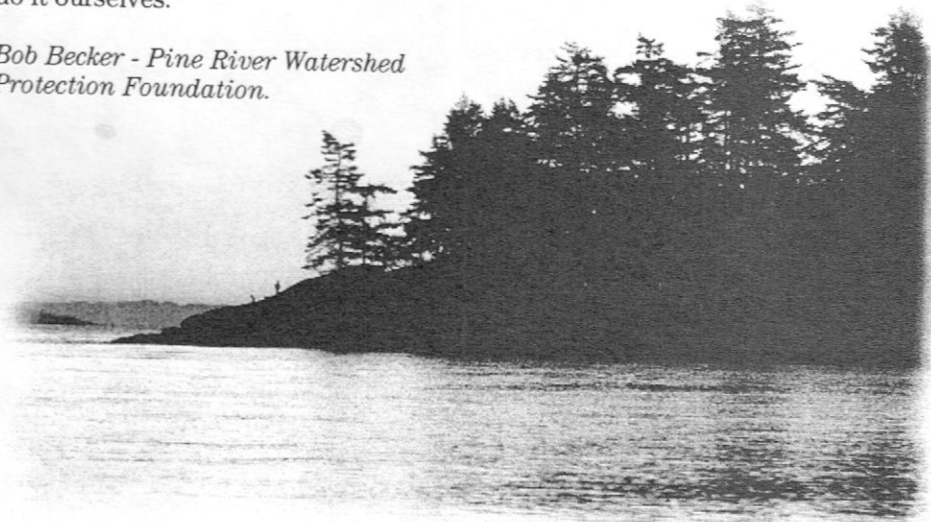
I have created a special site to share my capabilities and skills. It also demonstrates how easy and functional a web page can be.

I hope you enjoy it, and watch for updates!

Cordially,

*Aldo Abelleira,
Newsletter layout/designer
(West Washburn Lake)*

P.S. any comments about this newsletter please write to the Lake Washburn Association or call me at: 612-844-4484





SUMMARY OF 1998 MINNESOTA - PERSONAL WATERCRAFT LEGISLATION**

Minnesota Department of Natural
Resource - Boat and Water Safety
Section

New restrictions - In addition to
restrictions already in place on
Personal Watercraft (PWC), the
following are added effective June 1,
1998.

- * Shore Zone: Personal watercraft
will need to operate a slow, no-wake
speed (5mph or less) within 150 feet
(formerly 100 feet) of shore, docks,
swimmers, swimming rafts, any
moored / anchored watercraft, or a
non-motorized watercraft at any time.
An exception is provided for a PWC
launching or landing a water skier by
the most direct route to open water.
- * Time: PWC may only be operated
from 9:30 A.M. to one hour before
sunset (formerly 8:00 A.M. to sunset).
- * Wake Jumping: PWC may not jump
the wake of another watercraft within
150 feet of the other craft (formerly
100 feet).
- * Rules Decal: Each PWC will need
to have a decal, which summarizes
the PWC restriction, in full view of the
operator (decal provided by DNR).
- * Backward Operation: Operation of
a PWC while facing backward is
prohibited.
- * Education: The DNR will increase
the coverage of personal watercraft
safety and operations in its watercraft
operator's permit course for youth.
- * Age of Accompanying Adult: The
minimum age of an adult: 1) required
to be on board a PWC whose operator
is 13 - 17 years old and does not have a
watercraft operator's permit, or 2)
who is required to visually supervise a
13 year old operating a PWC with a
watercraft operator's permit is raised
to 21 years of age (formerly 18).
- * Rentals: PWC dealers and rental
operations will need to keep a
signature record of those persons
who buy or rent PWCs,
acknowledging that they have been
provided a copy of the PWC laws and

rules (dealers and rental operations
have been required to provide this
information since 1991). Those
persons less than 18 years of age will
need to show their watercraft
operator's permit before renting a
PWC and the rental agency must
record this information on the
signature record.

* Exemption for Enforcement /
Emergency PWC: When on official
duties, PWCs operated by
enforcement, emergency or safety
personnel are exempted from the
restrictions on hours
and location of PWC operation.

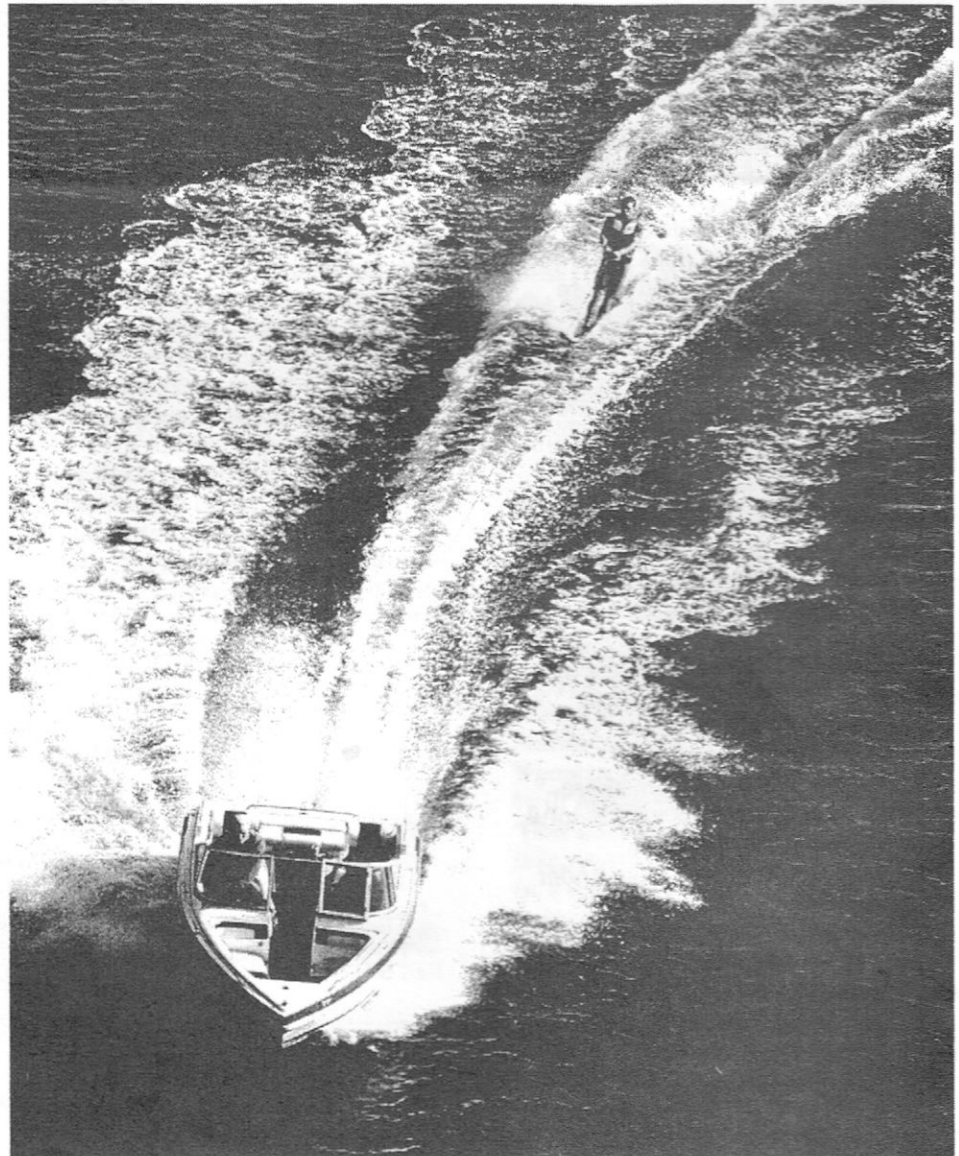
Fees - effective January 1, 1998.

* PWC Surcharge: A \$50 surcharge is
placed on each PWC as it is registered
for the first time or comes up for

renewal. Total cost for a PWC for the
three-year registration period will be
\$69 (registration fee =\$12, exotics
surcharge =\$5, registration =\$2, PWC
surcharge =\$50). The surcharge
proceeds will be used for additional
PWC enforcement by the DNR
conservation officers and county
sheriff's departments.

* Rental PWC: The registration fee
for rental PWC is raised from \$6 to
\$12 every three years. (making it the
same as the fee for private PWC
owners).

** SF 1169 Conference Committee
Report (4/9/98) and SF 3353
Conference Committee Report
(4/9/98) - as passed by the House and
Senate.





Relax at Washburn Lake!