



# Lake Washburn Association

# NEWSLETTER

To Ensure that our Beautiful Lake and its Environment Will Survive to be Enjoyed by Those Generations that Follow Us

## Spring Edition 2003

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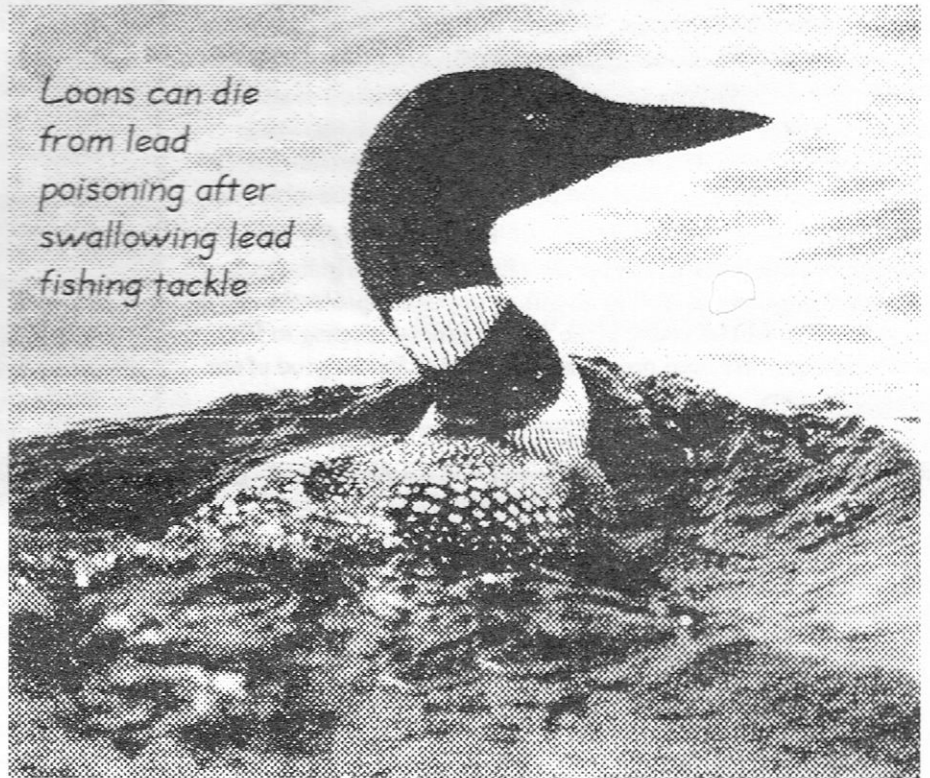
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## Let's Get the Lead Out!

Loons can die  
from lead  
poisoning after  
swallowing lead  
fishing tackle



### Lead Poisoning of a Loon

It started when the DNR received a report on a loon that had not migrated. It was the day after Thanksgiving, and the lake was freezing. The loon was keeping a small hole open in the ice of Big Jay Gould Lake near Cohasset in Itasca County. Members of the Cohasset Fire Department used the "ice angel" air boat and wet suits to retrieve the loon. Early the next morning, the loon was taken to the Garrison Animal Hospital and was diagnosed with lead poisoning. An x-ray showed that a lead jig-head was in its stomach, and blood tests indicated a blood lead level of 2.28 parts per million (ppm). By the time the lead jig was removed, it was too late. The lead had already poisoned the bird. It died. Lead poisoning occurs in birds with lead levels greater than 0.2 ppm and birds usually die with levels greater than 1.2 ppm. Just one lead sinker can poison a loon.

### Why is lead a problem?

Lead is a toxic metal that, in sufficient quantities, has adverse effects on the nervous and reproductive systems of mammals and birds. This metal, found in most fishing sinkers and some shot is poisoning wildlife such as loons and eagles. While it is hard to get an accurate count of water birds and birds of prey that die of lead poisoning, conservative estimates indicate that lead poisoning is a serious concern.

LEAD continues on page 5

**FROM  
THE  
PRESIDENT**  
*by Dave Snesrud*

Hi! I hope you've had a good winter season. Hopefully you've managed to escape without frozen water pipes and/or a frozen septic system.

As we look forward to the coming summer season, I hope you will set aside the time to become an active member of the Lake Washburn Association. There are many opportunities for you to become involved. The first step is to become a member. We would like to greatly increase the number of residents who join the Association.

Secondly, attend the meetings. We have two general meetings (June 14th and August 9th). Come and hear what the Association is doing and add your perspective.

Thirdly, volunteer. There are many opportunities available---boat monitoring, Highway 48 cleanup, shoreland volunteer training, water patrol, membership drive, etc.--- where you can become involved and contribute.

Fourthly, become a board member or officer. There are going to be three board positions, as well as all officer positions open at the end of this year. (We will be voting at the August general meeting to fill these positions.) We need people willing to work for the good of our lake and its users.

We can only be as good as our membership. We value your thoughts and ideas, but we need you to become active in the Association. Please join us this year in our endeavors of protecting Lake Washburn!

If you are interested in any of the many opportunities, or have issues or concerns which you would like addressed, please contact me or a board member.

*See page 4 for our contact information.*

**WANTED!!**

Do you have information to share? How about memories or pictures? What about any interesting articles that you have seen? If you have anything that you think may be of interest to Washburn residents,

please share them with us. We really need your input!

We'd also like to know if there is any interest in a "Questions & Concerns" column.

**Please** let us know if there is anything you would like to see in the newsletter. We value your suggestions and ideas!

Send these items to:

Lake Washburn Newsletter  
P.O. Box 26, Outing, MN 56662

or

e-mail Dave Snesrud at  
l&dsnes@usfamily.net

**THANK YOU!!**



**HIGHWAY 48 CLEAN-UP**

The first cleanup of Highway 48 will be Saturday, May 24th, at 9:00 a.m. Please meet at the Converse Camp Ground (on East Lake off of Highway 48). We will clean up the 3 miles of blacktop west from State Highway 6. Last year we had a good turnout, and it only took a little over an hour. Mark your calendars for the second clean-up as well, which will be Saturday, August 30th. Thanks for your help!

For any questions, please contact Paul Cartwright at 218-792-5428 or e-mail at cartw005@tc.umn.edu.

**MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**

Volunteers are needed to assist with the 2003 membership drive. If you are willing to call on your neighbors to help promote our association, please contact Marv Hildreth at 218-792-5297 or e-mail at mrvhild@aol.com.

**BOAT MONITORING**

The coming of Spring and the re-opening of our lake means we again need to keep up our vigilance against the potential danger of introducing milfoil into our lake. Milfoil is as close as lakes in Emily and when it gets into any lake it chokes out all other natural vegetation and destroys the fish habitat. We must NOT let this happen to Lake Washburn. One of the most successful ways to control and prevent its introduction is by monitoring all boats that are launched into the lake. The volunteers who have helped in the past years have been successful because they gave a few hours each to monitor at the public landing. Several persons have again come forward to volunteer this season and we would like to ask you to help also - the more help, the easier the job for all. We will begin the monitoring on major weekends through the 2003 boating season starting with the fishing opener. Please ask any guests you have visiting the lake to thoroughly clean their boat before launching it into Lake Washburn.

If you would be willing to give some time to this important and necessary project to save our lake's future, please contact Rollie Hirman at 218-792-5528 or e-mail at hirmanrollie@msn.com.

*Go to page 7 for more volunteer opportunities.*



## INTERVIEW WITH TIM BRASTRUP OF THE DNR

by Dave Snesrud

Last October, as a follow-up to his presentation at our August General Meeting, Howard Dutton and I had the opportunity to go to the Brainerd DNR office and have a good sit down conversation with Tim Brastrup. Tim was very open and honest with us. Howard told him of how he has seen the fishery change over the years. Washburn has gone from a good walleye lake to a poor walleye lake. But also in the same time, the amount of fish caught hasn't changed; the species have changed to more bass and crappie and less walleye. He informed us that some variables are hard to quantify because they are so small or happen over a long period of time. Following are some of the questions we asked and Tim's responses, as well as observations we had:

*Q: What are the characteristics of a good fishing lake?*

A: It depends on expectations: 1) Through the years the amount of fish remain constant; 2) Healthy fish with good growth.

*Q: What does a lake need to be a good fishing lake?*

A: 1) Broad habitat; 2) Good spawning areas for each species; 3) Nursery habitat for young fish cover and ambush areas.

*Q: Should we be locating spawning areas to protect them?*

A: Yes. Particularly walleyes, which need rock or rubble in 1'-3' of water. Walleye return to the same area to spawn where they hatch. Northern prefer wild rice beds; largemouth bass - sand in calm areas; crappie & perch - bulrushes;

*Q: Is habitat protection the key for maintaining a good healthy fishery?*

A: Without a good habitat you cannot have good fish populations.

*Q: What should the ration be of walleye-northern-perch for a good walleye fishery?*

A: Walleye 4 to 9.6 per net; northern 3 to 7.9 per net; perch 7 to 3.4 per net *Note: The last survey done of Lake Washburn that had that ratio was 1968! Perch numbers are low now so they mature faster and start reproducing younger, when they are smaller, producing fewer eggs.*

*Q: How do largemouth bass, crappie, and sunfish fit into this ratio?*

A: Bass and sunfish don't seem to affect it. Young crappies compete with young walleyes for the same food, so they may affect walleye numbers.

*Q: Are there natural fluctuations in which fish are predominant at different times? Are these fluctuations man-induced?*

A: Eliminating bulrushes destroys habitat for spawning and young fish. Excess phosphates from poor septic systems and runoff can create an algae-fungal community growth on rocks, which can prevent success for rock spawning fish (walleyes). Water level fluctuations can effect success. Walleyes are more successful with lower water levels and northern with higher water levels. *Note: The last three years we have seen very high water levels.*

*Q: Last August, concern was focused on the northern pike population and what northern should be kept and which put back. What should be the cutoff for returning and keeping fish?*

A: Northern over 22" should be returned and smaller than that kept. That doesn't mean you should go out and slaughter them. Simply keep the smaller ones for eating.

*Q: Can we get a sign to put up at the public access to notify others?*

A: No. Lake Washburn is a control lake for on-going northern pike studies. Your association can publish it in your newsletter, but it cannot be publicized for the general population.

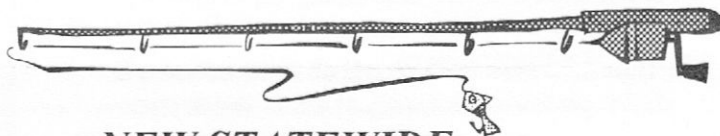
*Q: Would developing voluntary bag limits to protect the spawning population of all species help with fish reproduction?*

A: With walleye and bass it probably would, but we don't have the information on crappie and sunfish. Currently there are studies being conducted on sunfish and crappie. Preliminary results show the lowering the bag limit on sunfish may increase the size of sunnies.

*Q: What would be the best voluntary slots for each species?*

A: Walleye - Return all fish over 21"; Bass - return all fish over 15"

INTERVIEW continues on page 7



## NEW STATEWIDE FISH LIMITS

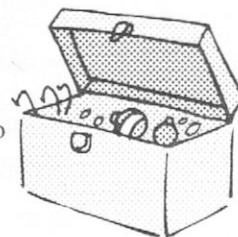
New limits for crappie, sunfish, lake trout and catfish will take effect on May 10th, the 2003 fishing opener, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources announced.

Daily and possession limits will be reduced as follows:

Crappie	10 (previous limit 15)
Sunfish	20 (previous limit 30)
Lake trout	2 (previous limit 3)

The daily limit for catfish will remain at five, but only one over 24 inches and two flathead catfish will be allowed in the total limit.

(Source: DNR Website)



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## REMEMBER...

Please let us know of any address changes, property sales, etc. so that our membership files can stay current.

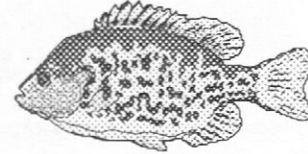
We want all property owners to have the newsletter to keep up with changes, suggestions, rules, regulations, and happenings at Lake Washburn. This will help us get information to you effectively.

Thank you!

## WHAT DOES THE LAKE WASHBURN ASSOCIATION DO?

- ❖ Works to ensure that the beauty and quality of Lake Washburn will be preserved for future generations.
- ❖ Provides a sense of community for the lake property owners.
- ❖ Has membership in the Pine River Watershed Protection Foundation (PRWPF), Association of Cass County Lakes (ACCL) and the Minnesota Lakes Association (MLA) to support their efforts to improve and protect Minnesota's water resources.
- ❖ Represents the lake property owners to local and state officials in support of preserving the lake.
- ❖ Works with the DNR on fish population and stocking.
- ❖ Keeps records of lake levels and clarity, and tests for water quality with the Hydolab.
- ❖ Assists in the placement, removal, and maintenance of navigational buoys for the safety of all boaters.
- ❖ Participates in the state loon watch program.
- ❖ Has adopted County Highway 48 (Lake Washburn Road) from State Highway 6 to the end of the blacktop, and cleans the area two times a year.
- ❖ Holds two general meetings (June and August) with programs of interest...DNR, lakescaping, septic systems, etc...which gives members a chance to meet and socialize with other Lake Washburn residents.

- ❖ At least three times a year, monitors boats at the public access for exotic plants such as milfoil.
- ❖ Sponsors two partial youth scholarships to Camp Portage (an environmental camp) for children/grandchildren of the lake association members.
- ❖ Mails three newsletters a year to all property owners with articles to keep residents up to date with the latest information.
- ❖ Makes contributions to:
  - Remer Fire Department
  - Outing Fire Department
  - Outing EMT
  - Outing JC Fireworks



### LAKE WASHBURN FACTS

- Lake Washburn covers 1554 acres.
- There are 17.2 miles of shoreline.
- The average depth is 24 feet with a maximum depth of 111 feet. Forty-two percent of the lake is less than 15 feet deep.
- In 1967 there were 27 seasonal homes and 11 permanent homes on the lake. In 1982 there were 212 seasonal homes and 35 that were permanent.
- At the end of 2002 there were a total of 344 property owners, 63 of which were permanent.

## 2003 LAKE WASHBURN ASSOCIATION MEMBERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The LWA Board Members are listed below, as well as their general responsibilities. Please contact any of these members with questions or concerns regarding our Association. Your input is valuable.

### OFFICERS

(All one year terms)

President	Dave Snesrud	763-753-2790	218-792-5824	l&dsnes@usfamily.net
Vice President	Ron Nichols	515-278-4459	218-792-5386	willa62@hotmail.com
Secretary	Mark Hegman	952-920-2392	218-792-5499	hegmanmark@aol.com
Treasurer	George Fortmeyer	651-784-2113	218-792-5416	fortmeyergl@earthlink.net

### DIRECTORS

(Remainder of 3 year term shown)

Rick Blackmon	1 yr	763-424-9154	218-792-5940	blackmon@citilink.com	By-laws, Articles of Inc., Website, Loons
Judy Matherne	1 yr	763-497-6679	218-792-5533	matherne@usfamily.net	Reservations, Meetings
Rod McKinley	1 yr	218-792-5228		mckinley@brainerd.net	Buoys, Water patrol
Paul Cartwright	2 yrs	952-835-1067	218-792-5428	cartw005@tc.umn.edu	County Road 48 clean-up
Marv Hildreth	2 yrs	913-492-7525	218-792-5297	mrvhild@aol.com	Newsletter sponsors
Don Peterson	2 yrs	218-792-5257			Nominating Committee
Rollie Hirman	3 yrs	507-843-6366	218-792-5528	hirmanrollie@msn.com	Boat Monitoring
Jim Lindahl	3 yrs	218-792-5348			County Road 48 clean-up, Loons
Cliff Waters	3 yrs	218-792-5368		cmwaters@brainerd.net	Hydro lab, Pine River Watershed

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### Aquatic plant permit requirements

Water plants such as bulrushes are essential for lake ecosystems. They reduce wave erosion, provide fish and wildlife habitat, and purify water. Because lake plants can interfere with swimming and boating by lakeshore owners---but are also vital to lake health---the DNR allows removal under the following conditions.

#### DNR permit not required

For underwater plants only, you may cut or pull plants as long as:

1. the area does not extend along more than 50 feet of your shoreline or one-half the length of your frontage, whichever is less;
2. the total area is less than 2,500 square feet (except for boat channels); and
3. the plants are immediately and permanently disposed of on high ground where they can't re-enter the water.

A person who illegally destroys plants can be cited and made to pay for the restoration of those plants.

For more information contact the DNR at 1-800-MINNDNR

(From: "2003 Minnesota Fishing Regulations")

#### DNR permit is required to:

1. Remove emergent plants (such as bulrushes, cattails, and wild rice).
2. Remove plants in an area larger than 2,500 square feet or wider than 50 feet.
3. Use herbicides or algicides in Minnesota lakes.
4. Remove water lilies (other than in a narrow channel extending to open water.)
5. Install or use an automated device such as the Cray WeedRoller.

### LEAD (from the front page)

A 15-year study analyzing 222 dead loons from Minnesota and 17 other states, concluded that 10% died of lead poisoning. Half of those loons actually had lead fishing sinkers in their stomachs.

In another study conducted by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, lead poisoning accounted for 17% of the dead loons sent to research centers for autopsy. In areas where loons breed -- the Great Lakes region, northeastern United States, and eastern Canada -- lead poisoning from jigs or sinkers may account for up to 50% of the dead adult loons found by researchers.

Between 1980 and 1996 the University of Minnesota's Raptor Center reported lead poisoning in 138 of 650 eagles treated by the Center. Since 1996, 43 additional eagles were treated for lead poisoning including 22 last year.

Because lead shot was banned in waterfowl protection areas in the early 1990's, the Raptor Center attributes lead jigs and sinkers as a source of ongoing lead poisoning in eagles.

There are alternatives to traditional lead tackle. Anglers can now use sinkers and jigs made from non-poisonous materials such as tin, bismuth, steel, and tungsten-nickel alloy -- and they can find them at established sporting goods retailers and on the Internet.

Anglers can help prevent lead poisoning. For more information and a list of websites where you can purchase non-poisonous tackle directly from manufacturers and retailers, visit the LWA Resource Center or go to:

[www.moec.state.mn.us/reduce/sinkers.cfm](http://www.moec.state.mn.us/reduce/sinkers.cfm)

(Source: DNR & Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance websites)

## FIRST GENERAL MEETING

Our first general meeting for 2003 will be Saturday, June 14th, at 9:00 a.m. at Crooked Lake Town Hall in Outing. Coffee and goodies will be served, followed by our meeting.

There will be speakers

presenting items

of interest. We will have DNR brochures available on water safety, catch-and-release, and shoreland management, as well as order forms for other DNR free publications. We will also have coloring books & comic books for our younger friends! Look for the LWA Resource Center!

Please plan to attend. If you haven't been to a meeting before, come and see what it's all about. We would like to see everyone there!

Drawing for door prizes will take place at the close of the meeting. . . you must be present to win.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**Success and failure can have much in common that is good if, during both, you've tried your best.**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

### IMPORTANT DATES

(Clip & Save)

#### General Meetings

Saturday, June 14 9:30 AM  
(Coffee at 9:00 AM)

Saturday, August 9 TBA  
(Ice Cream Social)

#### Board Meetings

Saturday, May 10 8:00 AM

Saturday, June 14 8:00 AM

Saturday, July 12 8:00 AM

Saturday, August 9 8:00 AM

Saturday, September 13 8:00 AM

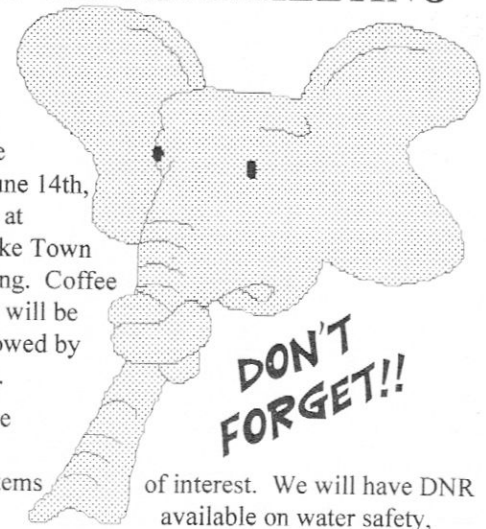
Both General Meetings and Board Meetings are held at the Crooked Lake Town Hall in Outing. All Association members are invited to attend all of these meetings.

#### Highway 48 Cleanup

(Meet at Converse Camp Ground)

Saturday, May 24th 9:00 AM

Saturday, August 28th TBA



## CATCH - AND - RELEASE

While fishing you land a 2-pound walleye. So you knock it on the head, and put it on ice, right? Maybe not. You might consider letting the fish go. That way, it can grow even larger and give another angler a chance to have the same fun you just had.

### DO THIS:

- Use barbless hooks - This lets you release the fish right away.
- Set the hook quickly - Fish often die when they swallow bait and are throat hooked.
- Play the fish quickly - The longer a fish has to fight, the weaker it gets and more likely it will succumb to disease or be eaten by a predator.
- Hold the fish firmly, but gently - Grasp at the back of the head, just behind (not under) the gill covers.
- Use a needlenose pliers to remove hooks - This lets you remove the hooks quickly, while touching the fish as little as possible.
- Cut the line if the fish is throat-hooked.
- Gently slide the fish into the water.
- Revive a tired fish by gently moving it back and forth in the water.



### DON'T DO THIS:

- Don't net or handle a fish if you can leave it in the water - Fish are covered with a mucous that protects them from infection and disease. Nets and handling rub off the protective coating.
  - Don't drop a fish in the boat - Fish bruise easier than apples, and the damage is often fatal.
  - Don't hold a fish by the eyes - That can blind or kill a fish.
  - Don't release a fish that can't right itself and bobs to the surface.\*
  - Don't release bleeding fish.\*
  - Don't place fish you plan to release on a stringer or in a livewell. Fish on stringers often don't survive, even when strung through the lips. Fish in livewells can recover, but often they don't, especially in livewells without aerators.
- \*Note: Any fish not of legal size must be released regardless of its condition.

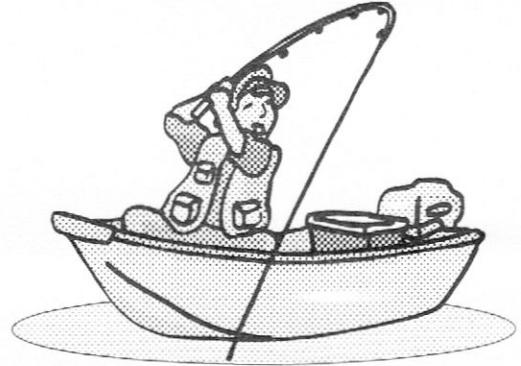
### EXTRA HELPERS

- ☛ To harm as few fish as possible, use lures instead of bait. Many studies have shown that when caught on lures, nearly all released fish survive.
- ☛ Clip 1 of the 3 treble hooks to make it easier to remove the lure from the fish's mouth.
- ☛ Consider using heavier line, so you can bring the fish in more quickly.

### THE BEST SIZES OF FISH TO RELEASE


Bluegill	---	7 inches and up
Crappie	---	10 inches and up
Smallmouth bass	---	10 inches and up
Stream trout	---	11 inches and up
Largemouth bass	---	12 inches and up
Walleye	---	18 inches and up
Northern pike	---	24 inches and up
Lake trout	---	24 inches and up
Muskellunge	---	All sizes

(Information found in the DNR's brochure "An Angler's Guide to Catch-and-Release").



## LAKE REFLECTIONS

By Judy Matherne



As another "Lake Season" approaches, I'm filled with anticipation. Will the water come on? Will the weather be warm enough for swimming before mid-July? Will we see the eagles early on? What animal critters

will we have to deal with this year? As you know, owning lake property brings its own set of joys and problems. Neighbors often share their trials and tribulations. Shan Eisler grew up on Lake Washburn and relates this story from her mother's, Mrs. Richard Steiner, lake diary dating back to 1963.

"Discovered bat in lake cabin at Lake Washburn at 1:00 a.m. Nothing too unusual, except that it was my "first" bat and it scared me out of my wits. . . Thought I saw it whoosh out into the night. . . Climbed into bed with my nine year old daughter. . . then felt the unmistakable swish, swish of wings. We leapt out of bed, ran for the door, and found that I had closed the French doors so carefully that we were hopelessly stuck inside with the bat! My daughter's two friends came in screaming, swinging brooms, turning lights on and off. More ghostly bat tricks until

4:00 a.m. Finally it flew out the door. However, a few days later. . . at 4:00 a.m., sleeping in the living room, I heard funny noises a few feet from my head. Just as I snapped on the light I saw the brown, furry thing wriggle out of a tiny opening in the nearby space heater. Female bedlam again! Luckily, it did leave after only an hour of buzzing us. Later, our kind and amused neighbor from Fehr's Resort, Howard Dutton, carefully screen the vents on our cabin roof for us."

How neighborly is that? Howard has also come to our rescue. Actually, he saved our son's friends when they came to visit one weekend. They mistakenly thought our shallow, grassy area was the perfect parking spot. Michael had forgotten to warn them that it's swampy and not to venture into it. Too late! One backed his pickup truck, with jet ski attached, into it and instantly became stuck. They creatively walked down to Howard's to see if he could help. He loaned them a heavy duty chain, and they pulled it out. Shortly after, the second friend arrived, and seeing fresh tracks (in the bog) decided it was our parking area and he pulled in. Now, of course, he was stuck!! Back to Howard's again for the chain!! Live and learn at the lake!! Thank goodness for helpful neighbors!

If you have a favorite lake memory you'd be willing to share willing to share with all our readers, please e-mail it to Judy Matherne at: [matherne@usfamily.net](mailto:matherne@usfamily.net).

## LOW INTEREST LOANS FOR SEPTIC SYSTEM REPLACEMENT

If you have a failing or non-conforming individual septic treatment system (ISTS), you may qualify for a low 3% interest loan. Cass County is pairing with Region 5 Economic Development to offer these loans to landowners in an effort to clean up the environment. You can also use this program to relocate your ISTS out of environmentally sensitive areas. The loan can be for a maximum of \$8,000 and you can take up to five years to repay it. There are closing costs involved with these loans, including an origination fee of up to 1/2%. You need to be able to show repayment ability. Work cannot begin on a project until the Region 5 Development Commission has given its approval.

For more information or an application packet contact:

### Cass County Environmental Services

Paul Fairbanks

218-547-7287 or [paul.fairbanks@co.cass.mn.us](mailto:paul.fairbanks@co.cass.mn.us)

or

John Sumption

218-547-7256 or [john.sumption@co.cass.mn.us](mailto:john.sumption@co.cass.mn.us)

For information only contact:

### Region 5 Economic Development

Anne Hanson

ISTS Program

611 Iowa Avenue NE

Staples, MN 56479

218-894-3233 or [ahanson@regionfive.org](mailto:ahanson@regionfive.org)

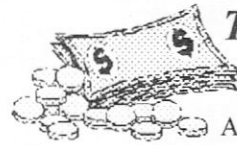
Information brochures will be available at the June 14th General Meeting at the Resource Center.

**NOTE:** There currently is a bill (The New Century Septic Bill), which is in the Senate Committee on State & Local Government Operations that will strengthen existing laws to identify polluting septic systems and provide incentives for homeowners to fix them. According to a fact sheet put out by Minnesota Environmental Partnership (MEP), "**33% are potentially contaminating our ground and surface waters**". Copies of this fact sheets will be available at the June general meeting in our "Resource Center".

MEP is Minnesota's largest coalition of conservation and environmental organizations. They have announced their 2003 Protect Our Water legislative agenda. Leading their list of initiatives to keep Minnesota's waters clean for fishing, boating, swimming, and as a source of drinking water are three issues, of which fixing failing septic systems is one. The other two are:

- Make dishwasher detergent phosphorus-free. To protect lakes, rivers and streams from excessive algae blooms, Minnesota led the nation last year by making lawn fertilizers phosphorus-free in the metro area and at reduced levels outstate. This legislation will continue to reduce phosphorus by making dishwasher detergents phosphorus-free. This bill passed the Senate Environmental Finance Committee in February and was referred to the Senate floor.

**LEGISLATION continues on page 10**



## TREASURER'S REPORT

By George Fortmeyer

Memberships in Lake Washburn

Association totaled only 167 for the year 2002.

There are 344 property owners on the lake, so fewer than half had memberships.

No doubt we all agree that we have an extraordinarily beautiful lake and want to keep it that way. This is why the Association exists! We can be successful if everyone participates!

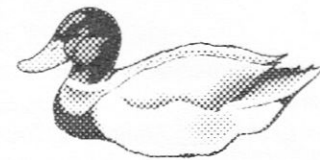
So far, 55 have renewed memberships for 2003. We need 250 more. Won't you join us? Please send your membership form and dues today!

**A REMINDER:** Membership dues, any extra donations, and memorials all qualify as charitable contributions for income tax purposes.

Last year, in addition to the regular membership dues, 40 of our members contributed an additional \$750 to enhance our treasury and to help fund special projects. Substantial gifts were also received in memorials for Frank Whiteley and for Ron Demarest-Bryan. The members of the Board of Directors and the Officers wish to express heartfelt thanks for the generosity of all these donors.

Our financial condition at present is sound. We have been able to meet our on going obligations, but we need to keep our contingency fund strong for funding all the work that will be necessary when milfoil or other damaging species hits our lake.

A full financial report for the year 2002 and a report for the first five months of 2003 will be available at the June 14, 2003 general meeting. Please mark your calendar and join us there.



## ACCL MEETING

By Doug Johnson

The meeting of the Cass County Association of Lakes was held on August 24, 2002, in Longville.

A former employee of Cass County gave a verbal and visual report on the testing of septic systems around five lakes this summer. Six hundred thirty-two properties were looked at. The property owners of an additional thirty-two properties would not allow the group onto their property. Of the five lakes tested, Long Lake by Longville was the worst percentage-wise, with a failure rate of 41%. Of the total properties looked at, the failure average was 24% (152 out of the 632). At this time, property owners have two years to get their systems compliant. Then the ACCL will take them to court.

Another item mentioned was that most septic systems are designed for approximately 20 years usage---then they are done. The majority of all property looked at did not have enough room for a second site for a new septic system. The long range plan of the ACCL is to have maintained sewer systems, similar to small towns or cities.

## CATCH - AND - RELEASE

While fishing you land a 2-pound walleye. So you knock it on the head, and put it on ice, right? Maybe not. You might consider letting the fish go. That way, it can grow even larger and give another angler a chance to have the same fun you just had.

### DO THIS:

- Use barbless hooks -This lets you release the fish right away.
- Set the hook quickly-Fish often die when they swallow bait and are throat hooked.
- Play the fish quickly-The longer a fish has to fight, the weaker it gets and more likely it will succumb to disease or be eaten by a predator.
- Hold the fish firmly, but gently-Grasp at the back of the head, just behind (not under) the gill covers.
- Use a needlenose pliers to remove hooks-This lets you remove the hooks quickly, while touching the fish as little as possible.
- Cut the line if the fish is throat-hooked.
- Gently slide the fish into the water.
- Revive a tired fish by gently moving it back and forth in the water.



### DON'T DO THIS:

- Don't net or handle a fish if you can leave it in the water-Fish are covered with a mucous that protects them from infection and disease. Nets and handling rub off the protective coating.
  - Don't drop a fish in the boat-Fish bruise easier than apples, and the damage is often fatal.
  - Don't hold a fish by the eyes-That can blind or kill a fish.
  - Don't release a fish that can't right itself and bobs to the surface.\*
  - Don't release bleeding fish.\*
  - Don't place fish you plan to release on a stringer or in a livewell. Fish on stringers often don't survive, even when strung through the lips. Fish in livewells can recover, but often they don't, especially in livewells without aerators.
- \*Note:** Any fish not of legal size must be released regardless of its condition.

### EXTRA HELPERS

- ☛ To harm as few fish as possible, use lures instead of bait. Many studies have shown that when caught on lures, nearly all released fish survive.
- ☛ Clip 1 of the 3 treble hooks to make it easier to remove the lure from the fish's mouth.
- ☛ Consider using heavier line, so you can bring the fish in more quickly.

### THE BEST SIZES OF FISH TO RELEASE


Bluegill	---	7 inches and up
Crappie	---	10 inches and up
Smallmouth bass	---	10 inches and up
Stream trout	---	11 inches and up
Largemouth bass	---	12 inches and up
Walleye	---	18 inches and up
Northern pike	---	24 inches and up
Lake trout	---	24 inches and up
Muskellunge	---	All sizes

*(Information found in the DNR's brochure "An Angler's Guide to Catch-and-Release").*



## LAKE REFLECTIONS

By Judy Matherne



As another "Lake Season" approaches, I'm filled with anticipation. Will the water come on? Will the weather be warm enough for swimming before mid-July? Will we see the eagles early on? What animal critters will we have to deal with this year? As you know, owning lake property brings its own set of joys and problems. Neighbors often share their trials and tribulations. Shan Eisler grew up on Lake Washburn and relates this story from her mother's, Mrs. Richard Steiner, lake diary dating back to 1963.

"Discovered bat in lake cabin at Lake Washburn at 1:00 a.m. Nothing too unusual, except that it was my "first" bat and it scared me out of my wits. . . Thought I saw it whoosh out into the night. . . Climbed into bed with my nine year old daughter. . . then felt the unmistakable swish, swish of wings. We leapt out of bed, ran for the door, and found that I had closed the French doors so carefully that we were hopelessly stuck inside with the bat! My daughter's two friends came in screaming, swinging brooms, turning lights on and off. More ghastly bat tricks until

4:00 a.m. Finally it flew out the door. However, a few days later. . . at 4:00 a.m., sleeping in the living room, I heard funny noises a few feet from my head. Just as I snapped on the light I saw the brown, furry thing wriggle out of a tiny opening in the nearby space heater. Female bedlam again! Luckily, it did leave after only an hour of buzzing us. Later, our kind and amused neighbor from Fehr's Resort, Howard Dutton, carefully screen the vents on our cabin roof for us."

How neighborly is that? Howard has also come to our rescue. Actually, he saved our son's friends when they came to visit one weekend. They mistakenly thought our shallow, grassy area was the perfect parking spot. Michael had forgotten to warn them that it's swampy and not to venture into it. Too late! One backed his pickup truck, with jet ski attached, into it and instantly became stuck. They creatively walked down to Howard's to see if he could help. He loaned them a heavy duty chain, and they pulled it out. Shortly after, the second friend arrived, and seeing fresh tracks (in the bog) decided it was our parking area and he pulled in. Now, of course, he was stuck!! Back to Howard's again for the chain!! Live and learn at the lake!! Thank goodness for helpful neighbors!

If you have a favorite lake memory you'd be willing to share willing to share with all our readers, please e-mail it to Judy Matherne at: [matherne@usfamily.net](mailto:matherne@usfamily.net).



## LOW INTEREST LOANS FOR SEPTIC SYSTEM REPLACEMENT

If you have a failing or non-conforming individual septic treatment system (ISTS), you may qualify for a low 3% interest loan. Cass County is pairing with Region 5 Economic Development to offer these loans to landowners in an effort to clean up the environment. You can also use this program to relocate your ISTS out of environmentally sensitive areas. The loan can be for a maximum of \$8,000 and you can take up to five years to repay it. There are closing costs involved with these loans, including an origination fee of up to 1/2%. You need to be able to show repayment ability. Work cannot begin on a project until the Region 5 Development Commission has given its approval.

For more information or an application packet contact:

### Cass County Environmental Services

Paul Fairbanks

218-547-7287 or [paul.fairbanks@co.cass.mn.us](mailto:paul.fairbanks@co.cass.mn.us)

or

John Sumption

218-547-7256 or [john.sumption@co.cass.mn.us](mailto:john.sumption@co.cass.mn.us)

For information only contact:

### Region 5 Economic Development

Anne Hanson

ISTS Program

611 Iowa Avenue NE

Staples, MN 56479

218-894-3233 or [ahanson@regionfive.org](mailto:ahanson@regionfive.org)

Information brochures will be available at the June 14th General Meeting at the Resource Center.

**NOTE:** There currently is a bill (The New Century Septic Bill), which is in the Senate Committee on State & Local Government Operations that will strengthen existing laws to identify polluting septic systems and provide incentives for homeowners to fix them. According to a fact sheet put out by Minnesota Environmental Partnership (MEP), "**33% are potentially contaminating our ground and surface waters**". Copies of this fact sheets will be available at the June general meeting in our "Resource Center".

MEP is Minnesota's largest coalition of conservation and environmental organizations. They have announced their 2003 Protect Our Water legislative agenda. Leading their list of initiatives to keep Minnesota's waters clean for fishing, boating, swimming, and as a source of drinking water are three issues, of which fixing failing septic systems is one. The other two are:

- Make dishwasher detergent phosphorus-free. To protect lakes, rivers and streams from excessive algae blooms, Minnesota led the nation last year by making lawn fertilizers phosphorus-free in the metro area and at reduced levels outstate. This legislation will continue to reduce phosphorus by making dishwasher detergents phosphorus-free. This bill passed the Senate Environmental Finance Committee in February and was referred to the Senate floor.

**LEGISLATION continues on page 10**



## TREASURER'S REPORT

By George Fortmeyer

Memberships in Lake Washburn

Association totaled only 167 for the year 2002.

There are 344 property owners on the lake, so fewer than half had memberships.

No doubt we all agree that we have an extraordinarily beautiful lake and want to keep it that way. This is why the Association exists! We can be successful if everyone participates!

So far, 55 have renewed memberships for 2003. We need 250 more. Won't you join us? Please send your membership form and dues today!

**A REMINDER:** Membership dues, any extra donations, and memorials all qualify as charitable contributions for income tax purposes.

Last year, in addition to the regular membership dues, 40 of our members contributed an additional \$750 to enhance our treasury and to help fund special projects. Substantial gifts were also received in memorials for Frank Whiteley and for Ron Demarest-Bryan. The members of the Board of Directors and the Officers wish to express heartfelt thanks for the generosity of all these donors.

Our financial condition at present is sound. We have been able to meet our ongoing obligations, but we need to keep our contingency fund strong for funding all the work that will be necessary when milfoil or other damaging species hits our lake.

A full financial report for the year 2002 and a report for the first five months of 2003 will be available at the June 14, 2003 general meeting. Please mark your calendar and join us there.



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# 10 BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR LAKE PROTECTION AND ENJOYMENT

## 1. Septic systems should be in code with local ordinances and properly operated and maintained.

- Do not put household cleaners, paint, solvents and pesticides down the drain.
- Practice water conservation at home.
- Limit the use of antibacterial products.
- Pump septic systems at least every three years, more often depending on use. Systems with garbage disposals should be pumped annually.

## 2. Practice good lawn maintenance.

- Limit fertilizing. Use zero-phosphorus fertilizer unless a soil test indicates the need for phosphorous. Do not fertilize with 50 feet of the lake.
- Keep grass clippings, leaves, and pet waste out of the lake.
- Reduce or eliminate pesticide use on the lawn and garden.

## 3. Maintain or establish a shoreland buffer zone of natural vegetation.

- Buffers prevent erosion and infiltration of nutrients into the lake.
- Buffers should be a minimum of 30 feet.
- Encourage woody vegetation and tall grasses to stabilize the shoreland.
- Minimize the disturbance of aquatic plants as they help to stabilize shorelines, and they are critical as habitat for fish and other wildlife.
- Slow shoreland runoff with gentle sloping and terraced landscaping.

## 4. Be a safe boater.

- Follow local boating regulations and safety rules and respect the rights of others.

*(We will have copies of the 2003 Minnesota Boating Guide available at the general meeting. Look for it at our Resource Center.)*

## 5. Practice catch-and-release fishing.

## 6. Prevent the spread of exotics, such as eurasian watermilfoil and zebra mussels.

- Check your boat before and after launching in the water; encourage others at the public access to do the same.
- Participate in the Zebra Mussel Watch Program. Call the DNR at 651-296-2835 or Minnesota Sea Grant at 218-726-8106.

## 7. Work with local officials.

- Be part of the local water planning process; ensure that the county water plan contains protective and rehabilitative management efforts for lakes in your county.
- Attend planning and zoning meetings or board of adjustments to voice concern about development activity that does not meet local ordinances.

## 8. Become a part of the local decision making process.

- Support your local lake association and county coalition of lake associations.

- Become part of the decision-making process for local land use ordinances---serve on the township board, soil and water conservation district board, water planning board, or other local government committees and appointed commissions.

## 9. Make your concerns know to state and federal legislators.

*(A list of these will be available at the general meeting at the "Resource Center".)*

**10. Support the Minnesota Lakes Association.** Go to [www.mnlakes.org](http://www.mnlakes.org) or check out the Resource Center at the June general meeting. **MLA is offering LWA members a one-time introductory membership for \$10---a 50% discount off their regular annual dues. You just need to cross out the \$20 on the form and enter "\$10 per Lake Washburn Association".**

**Working together-at the local, county and state level-we can make a difference.**

*(Taken from the Minnesota Lakes Association website.)*

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## LEGISLATION (from page 9)

•Keep clean water a budget priority. "We can't afford not to protect our water," said MEP policy director, Don Arnosti. "Both House Speaker Steve Sviggum and Senate Majority Leader John Hottinger have said that clean air and clean water will not be sacrificed during this critical budgeting session. We urge all lawmakers to join with their leadership to protect clean water funding this session."

Please contact your local representative and urge them to vote for these issues. More information on these issues and how to contact your legislators will be available at the Resource Center. You can also go to MEP's website:

[www.mepartnership.org/protectourwater](http://www.mepartnership.org/protectourwater)

To find out the status of these and other issues, you can go directly to the Minnesota Legislature's website:

[www.leg.state.mn.us](http://www.leg.state.mn.us)

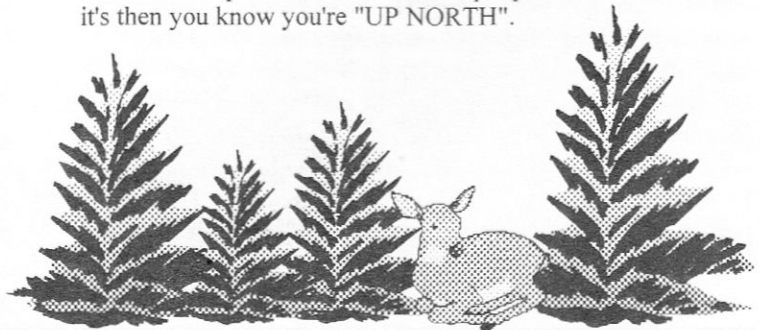
*(Source: Minnesota Environmental Partnership website)*

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## WHERE IS "UP NORTH"?

Doug Johnson sent us this writing by May Winch that came with a beautiful water color painting. While he cannot share the painting with us, he did want to share her writing:

There's a lot of talk about "UP NORTH". It's the place everyone wants to escape the pressures and the frantic pace of life. But where is "UP NORTH"? For it is not so much a LOCATION as a state of mind. So how do you know when you've arrived "UP NORTH"? When you feel the cares of the world begin to slip away, when you begin to breathe a little easier because the air seems purer, when you notice the sky is bluer and the pines are taller and the people smile a lot more, it's then you know you're "UP NORTH".



## MORE 2002 MEMBERS

The following members paid their dues after publication of the Fall 2002 Newsletter. Thank you!

Charles & Marilyn Alberg	Michael & Sue Wilder
Gerald & Lisa Botts	Larry & Sharon Williams
Ron & Willa Nichols	Ray & Mildred Gryskiewicz
David & Patricia Oleson	

### CORRECTION

An error was made in the Fall 2002 Newsletter. John & Kathy Hegman were listed as "Lake Washburn Contributors for 2002". This should have been John & Kathy Harris and Mark & Jacqueline Hegman.

The following were not included and are also "2002 Contributors":

Ronald & Nancy Reich	Ronald & Mary Ress
Vern (LW) & Shirley Simpson	Thomas Wahl
Michael & Sue Wilder	

We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

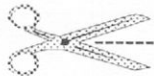
## IN MEMORY...

A memorial contribution has been given to the Lake Washburn Association in memory of Frank C. Whiteley, who passed away on September 30, 2002.

The Whiteley Family began vacationing at Lake Washburn in 1955, and purchased their first cabin on the peninsula in 1978. Frank served on the Association board from 1985-1990 holding a variety of positions. He was a strong advocate for maintaining the ecology and fishing of Lake Washburn. His memorial fund has been designated to be applied to these specific areas.

His wife Margaret; sons, Bill and Terry; daughter, Susan; and seven grandchildren will continue to enjoy our beautiful lake that Frank loved so dearly. ~Ron Nichols~

Please notify the Association of the death of any of our lake residents, as we would like to pass along that information.



## Lake Washburn Association

# MEMBERSHIP FORM

**Yearly Membership Dues: \$15.00\* (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31)**

<input type="checkbox"/> 2003	<input type="checkbox"/> New
<input type="checkbox"/> 2004	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Permanent Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

**Road Location:** (Please check the road on which you reside. If your road is not listed, please write it in.)

<input type="checkbox"/> Bear Paw Road	<input type="checkbox"/> Birch Bay Road	<input type="checkbox"/> Cottontail Lane
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastburn Road	<input type="checkbox"/> Fehr's Road	<input type="checkbox"/> Lake George Road
<input type="checkbox"/> Lois Lane	<input type="checkbox"/> Longwood Point Road	<input type="checkbox"/> Peninsula Road
<input type="checkbox"/> Plummers Point	<input type="checkbox"/> West Washburn Road.	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

**I am interested in participating as marked:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Board Position	<input type="checkbox"/> Natural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Patrol
<input type="checkbox"/> Highway Cleanup	<input type="checkbox"/> Boat Monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/> Buoy Markers
<input type="checkbox"/> Fish Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Hydro-lab	<input type="checkbox"/> Shoreland Volunteer

**Additional Donation\*** (amount) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ecological Fund       Hydro-lab       General Fund       Other (specify)

Mail completed form to: *Lake Washburn Association*  
 Box 26 Outing, MN 56662

\*Memberships and additional donations are tax deductible.

## BACK PAGE THIS 'N THAT

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**Participants** in a workshop at the 1987 International Conference on Outdoor Ethics, sponsored by the Izaak Walton League of America, identified nine practices of growing concern, expressed here in no particular order of importance.

- 1) Vandalism
- 2) Alcohol abuse
- 3) Landowner abuse
- 4) Littering
- 5) Violation of angling regulations
- 6) Crowding of water
- 7) Abuse of non-target fish species
- 8) Improper handling of the catch
- 9) Waste of the catch.

They were concerned because these practices are still going on today. They urge people who teach others how to fish, to understand fishing regulations and practice good fishing etiquette. They also ask that people be responsible and be good stewards of the land, as told to us in the good Book.

*Our thanks to Doug Johnson who saw this in the first edition of the magazine "Live to Fish" and sent it to us.*

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**REMEMBER:** When fertilizing the lawn, you may not just be fertilizing the lawn!

### FOR RENT

3 bedroom/2 bath cabin on the North end of Washburn Lake. Very private on 200 feet of lake shore. Easy access to hiking with lots of seasonal berry picking. Cabin has nice deck; microwave; TV/VCR; fireplace; Bath + Shower; bonfire ring. For rent by the week. Rates vary. Please call (651) 488-9773.



Lake Washburn Association  
**NEWSLETTER**  
BOX 26, OUTING, MN 56662

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

