



Lake Washburn Association Newsletter

Working to protect our lake and its environment for future generations

Summer Newsletter

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Message from the President:

I am entering my fifth consecutive year as LWA President. As many of you recall, our by-laws limit the service period for an officer to three years. We have tried to recruit a new president the last couple of years, but unfortunately we were unsuccessful.

Some might say, "of course the LWA presidency is a lot of work and a thankless job." That is more false than true. First, I receive frequent and heartfelt thank yous from members—I am very grateful for that. The work load depends very much on how much work other members do. Ideally if we have enough volunteers for the committee work, the president's job is reasonably easy. We have in the past couple of years found individuals who are doing great committee work and do not serve on the board. These individuals simply make sure the committee work gets done.

The reason I bring this up is that I will be able to serve another term, and in fact will have difficulty making meetings this summer due to work commitments. The board has been discussing this via email and some board members like Ron Reich have agreed to chair our meetings that I will miss, but we still need a president, officers, and directors to stand for election in August. So please think about what you can do. Speak with a board member (listed on page 2), or volunteer and let us know what you might be able to help with as we all try to work together to preserve and enjoy our beautiful lake.



A nice photo that is on our new website (Mary Hirman rights reserved). To get to the website and see more photos and stay up to date go to <http://www.minnesotawaters.org/group/washburn/>

Keep Your Distance!

Over Memorial Day weekend, a couple of lake residents noted that boats were getting very near to floating loon nests which the Association purchased and lake residents maintain.

A couple of friendly reminders:

- Loons have been known to abandon nests if humans are too close. So keep a healthy distance and avoid operating a motor near nesting platforms.
- Loon chicks are very vulnerable when first born, and they cannot dive. So in June and early July especially watch out for chicks in the path of your boats and try not to force loons to move to avoid you!

Lake Washburn has one of the highest loon populations in Cass County, and observing the reminders above will help our loons and afford all of us a bit more natural beauty on our lake.



Photo by Mary Hirman(rights reserved). See Website!

Loons seem to survive Winter in the Gulf Region

Wildlife experts and enthusiasts say there are encouraging early signs that Minnesota's loons and other migratory birds fared well while wintering in the Gulf of Mexico following last summer's massive oil spill.

Pam Perry of the Minnesota DNR, said while its anecdotal, reports from people that loons are back on their lakes is cause for optimism. The state will know much more about the loon population after July when the DNR, aided by volunteers, conducts its annual survey of Minnesota's state bird on 600 lakes.

The loon population in the state has remained stable since 1994. If you spot a dead loon, contact our DNR volunteer (Richard Nelles) at the number or email immediately to the right. The DNR can examine the bird to determine how it died as part of its ongoing research.

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AIS Laws Stiffened as Groups Achieve Legislative Win



Gov. Dayton shows off his catch from the opener on Lake Pokegama in Grand Rapids.

Governor Dayton signed the Aquatic Invasive Species policy bill, [Senate File 1115](#), on May 27th. Supporters have called this a great first step in the fight against Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). The bill was pushed by Minnesota Seasonal Recreational Property Owners (MSRPO), and supported by some organizations such as Tri-County COLA Collaborative, Leech Lake Watershed District and lake associations across the state. Senators and representatives supporting the bill were Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen, Sen. John Carlson, Sen. Paul Gazelka, Sen. Rod Skoe, Sen. Gary Dahms, Rep. Denny McNamara, Rep. John Ward, Rep. Connie Doepke and many others.

“The passage of SF 1115 was a real grass roots achievement, with many, many organizations joining together, and working with MSRPO’s lobbying team and legislators to protect our lakes. Everyone should feel proud about what we have all accomplished together,” remarked Jeff Forester, Executive Director of MSRPO.

Forrester continued, “MSRPO is grateful for people who have been joining MSRPO primarily because of our AIS efforts, and hope this continues, because the increased membership have helped us (MSRPO) to gain real traction with legislators and the Governor.”

Forrester commented some legislators opinions were influenced and changed by letter writing which members did via the MSRPO website.

Here is a brief outline of what SF 1115 contains regarding

AIS:

- Defines decontamination, suggesting the [Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species](#) guidelines.
- Defines "Inspector" to include anyone certified by the DNR Commissioner, even if they are not licenced peace officers.
- Empowers inspectors to be able to order inspection and/or decontamination of water related equipment before it is put into waters of the state. Previously, inspections could be refused.
- Makes "compliance with aquatic invasive species inspection requirements... an express condition of operating or transporting water related equipment" in Minnesota.
- Empowers conservation or peace officers to set up "check stations," to check for AIS.
- Requires water related service providers, such as dock installers and marinas, to complete AIS training to get a permit.
- Disburses AIS penalties to the issuing agency, thereby creating incentive for local law enforcement to enforce AIS regulations.
- Requires boat owners to display an educational rules decal (supplied at no cost by the DNR) on their boats. This will keep the AIS message constantly in front of all boat operators, even those who are not the owner and may not know the rules.
- Gives the commissioner increased leeway in dealing with fishing tournaments by the addition of, "The commissioner may require mandatory decontamination of boats participating in fishing contests on infested waters."
- The bill is already in effect.

MSRPO tried to increase both civil and criminal penalties for violat-
Continued on page 4.

Decontamination Stations: A Sure Way to Stop AIS Spread

Part of the new AIS legislation allows boat inspectors to require boats be "decontaminated" prior to entering a body of water. In order to achieve this, a boat needs to be out of the water for long periods of time to allow *complete* drying or it needs to be cleaned at a station such as the one pictured at the right. Complete drying requires significant time out of the water—this time can range from 7 days when it is dry and hot in the summer to over a month in cool and wet conditions.

The station pictured here uses a 2000 PSI pressure washer with extremely hot water to prevent everything from zebra mussels to Eurasian water milfoil from being spread. The water needs to be 140 degrees Fahrenheit when hitting the boat and trailer, so the water temperature at the nozzle is as high as 180 degrees Fahrenheit. The stations also reclaim the water they use to ensure zebra mussels are not introduced to a sewer system via run-off.

Stations cost approximately \$5,000, and operators need special training to ensure they operate the stations effectively and safely.



The DNR demonstrated use of a decontamination station at the Governor's fishing opener by decontaminating Gov. Dayton's boat.

AIS Legislation continued from page 3.

ing AIS rules, but was unsuccessful. MSRPO will continue pursue increases in civil and criminal penalties for AIS violations.

While Gov. Dayton signed the bill into law, the funding for increased AIS work in Minnesota remains uncertain. All finance bills were vetoed as the legislature and the Governor were unable to reach an overall budget consensus during the regular session. Gov. Dayton wrote in his message to Legislative leadership, "I am vetoing and returning Chapter 46, House File HF 1010, the Environment, Energy and Natural resources Finance Bill. Reductions at the levels proposed in this bill to the MPCA, DNR, BWSR and the Department of Commerce would have harmful effects on Minnesotans throughout our state."

HF 1010 funded AIS work with Environmental Trust Fund money. Gov. Dayton wrote regarding this provision, "In regard to the Department of Natural Resources sections of the bill, I have concerns about using environment and natural resources trust fund dollars to fund accelerated efforts to prevent future spread of aquatic invasive species; the state needs

a long-term and dedicated funding source to build lasting programs. I urge you to include my Aquatic Invasive Species funding proposal to fund these important programs." Specifically, Gov. Dayton is asking the legislature to approve the \$5 a year increase on the AIS surcharge on boat registrations.

MSRPO has said it will continue to advocate for a reliable and ongoing funding source to protect Minnesota's lakes and rivers. Many citizens and legislators have suggested that funds from the Legacy Amendment would be appropriate for this work.

The Legacy Funding Bill, SF 1363, which appropriates \$450 million in legacy funds over the next biennium ran into a road block in the House in the final hours of session. House members from both parties had hesitations with provisions that weakened the open meeting requirements of the Lessard/Sams council. SF 1363 was referred back to conference on a vote of 119 yeas to 14 nays. However, the motion was reconsidered and debate continued. The House adjourned the regular session before a final vote on the bill. No money for AIS was included in the bill.

Barb Halbakken, Becker County COLA and a MSRPO Board member, said, "The legislative process is a marathon, not a sprint—we have made remarkable progress towards protecting our lakes."

Our Battle Against Eurasian Water Milfoil Goes Well

It looks like we are winning our battle with Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). We have not yet seen any this year after treating ever smaller areas over the past two years.

Just to recap, we discovered EWM in July of 2009 in East Bay. At that time we surveyed the Lake and determined that 5.7 acres were infested with EWM, and we treated 5.7 acres in September of 2009.

In summer of 2010, we began active surveying by scuba diving, kayaking, and boating. We estimated that the 5.7 acres which was treated were about 99% EWM free. Scuba divers hand-picked EWM as they dove, but to be prudent the association also treated the spots where we had found EWM and some plants remained. This total area was about one quarter of an acre.

This Memorial Day weekend we had three divers search the previously infested area for two mornings. The water temperature was a balmy 57 degrees on the first day and 55 degrees on the second day. The dives showed that our efforts appear to be very successful thus far. The divers not only did not see any EWM, they also found no native Northern Watermilfoil. Instead the bottom was generally covered with types of pondweed and other native and non-invasive plants.

One explanation for the absence of Northern Milfoil is that it is susceptible to the chemical treatment we used for EWM.

Because we have aggressively treated this small area we might well have stopped the spread of EWM to the rest of Washburn, and in the long term reduced our treatment cost and needs.



As mentioned in last autumn's newsletter, the approach we are using has actually eliminated EWM in some lakes in Washington state, and our goal is to be the first to eliminate EWM in a Minnesota lake! So far so good...

Our approach for the rest of the 2011 will be:

- To survey the areas which have had milfoil by scuba divers before mid-August. If EWM is found we will pick it and then treat the areas again this September.
- In August we will ask volunteers to "cruise" the whole lake looking for EWM.
- We will continue to ask all lake residents to watch their beaches for EWM fragments, and as they are out fishing and boating to keep an eye out for EWM.

We do not need to worry about accidentally eradicating Northern Milfoil we have plenty throughout Washburn, and over time it will very likely return to the EWM area.

Thanks to our divers Bill Pudwell, Scott Mark, Dave Judd and Ted Johnson. Also special thanks to Mike Calander who helped observe things and helped from the surface.

LWA WEBSITE:

Some of you might have noticed that our website address has changed slightly. Our new address is:
<http://www.minnesotawaters.org/group/washburn/>

Alternatively, you can type "MN Waters Washburn Lake" into a search engine like Google and the website will be in the top three options. If you do that often enough and click on the link, we will be number 1!

LWA Membership approves Scuba Reimbursement Policy

Last August the Association membership passed a policy regarding reimbursement of certain scuba lessons and equipment cost as people volunteer for AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) diving. The policy basically says we will reimburse:

- 50% of Diver Certification Classes
- 100% of equipment (Tanks, regulators, Buoyancy Control Devices, etc.)

These reimbursements are “capped” at \$1,000 and a diver must *earn* the reimbursement at a rate of \$100 an hour as he/she dives. In other words, a diver must dive for 10 hours in order to get \$1,000 of reimbursement for equipment the diver purchased.

Direct expenses like tank fill charges and equipment maintenance will also be reimbured with no cap. So if you have equipment and are certified, you dive for free.

Also note that you need to dive with the LWA organized dives and that if you intend to seek reimbursement you should inform Ted Johnson or Scott Mark who coordinate dives.

As we discussed at the meeting, scuba equipment is expensive and so are certification classes. For liability reasons we want our volunteer divers be certified and to own and maintain their own equipment. Some lake associations hire commercial divers for such work and commercial diving rates are much higher!

So if you, or members of your family, would like to help the Association combat AIS as well pursue scuba certification or get your own equipment, let Ted Johnson or Scott Mark know. This includes divers who are certified but do not have equipment, since we would otherwise rent equipment which is very costly and time consuming.

All dives are done with other certified divers so if divers are interested in logging dive time for more advanced diver

certifications we will be able to certify the dives. It is great way to get dive time in. Additionally, the dives will hone your buoyancy control skills as well as allow you to develop great underwater navigation skills. Last year we had six divers help. We would love to increase the number of divers as well as the number of dives. So far it looks like we will significantly increase our diver volunteer base with this policy.



Scott Mark getting ready to dive over the Memorial Day

Local Conservation Organization Offers Grants

The Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation(LLAWF) is working collaboratively with Cass County Environmental Services on land protection projects with private landowners of critical and sensitive shorelands who are willing to donate a conservation easement on their property.

With grant funds from the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (lottery proceeds) and an appropriation from the new dedicated sales tax (Legacy Funds), grant funds will pay the cost of professional services needed to place a conservation easement on a parcel. These services are valued at approximately \$15,000 per easement.

Essentially, conservation-minded landowners of large undeveloped or minimally developed shoreland parcels give up their right to further development, but they continue to own the land and use

it. They can set aside future building sites that would be excluded from the easement. If the land is sold or passed on, the easement runs with the land. The landowner is usually eligible for an IRS charitable deduction for the value of the easement as determined by a special appraisal, although reductions in property taxes may not occur.

By keeping critical shorelands undeveloped, water quality and fish and wildlife habitat are protected. LLAWF and Cass County mapping over the past two years identified 228 miles of shorelands in Cass County with high conservation potential. Over the next three years, this project will conserve at least 10 miles of critical shorelands and 2,000+ acres in North Central Minnesota.

Fishery Committee Report

By John Harris, Fishery Committee Chair

There have been several developments since last autumn that impact the Lake Washburn fishery.

Management Plan: The DNR has developed a long term Lake Management Plan for a number of lakes including Washburn. The plan has not yet been approved but this is, in a nutshell, what is included this year:

- Stock 56,100 walleye frylings in each even numbered years through 2014 and then evaluate success.
- Gill net after each stocking to evaluate success (2013, 2015, 2017). Re-plan after the 2017 netting.
- Continue fall electrofishing to monitor Young of Year walleyes through at least 2015.
- Test net every six years with the next netting being in 2015.
- To the extent possible, protect habitat through permits and encouraging shoreland enhancements and restorations.
- Open lake to fall tullibee netting
- Continue to work with our Association to enhance management goals.
- Monitor the east basin for winterkill conditions when necessary.

The budget for this program, if approved, is slightly over a

half million dollars! If you would like to see a complete copy of the proposed plan, go to our website: <http://www.minnesotawaters.org/group/washburn/welcome-lake-washburn-associations-website-0>

Electrofishing: The DNR conducted electrofishing the past October. This program is designed to primarily determine the reproduction and success of walleye stocking programs. This procedure was first done in 1999 and has been repeated yearly since. Great News!!! The results this past Oct found the highest number of young walleye, ever...nearly double that of any other year. Let's hope those little puppies grow to be the game fish we are seeking.

Fishing Log: Enough is enough. Despite our many pleas, less than a dozen logs were turned in following the 2010 soft water season. And, nearly all of those came not from cabin owners on our lake but rather, from outsiders. Clearly, this effort was not seen as of value by our cabin owners and therefore it is being discontinued. A big thanks to Howard Dutton for all of the time he put into monitoring the program.

Spawning Beds: The primary walleye spawning beds were identified several years ago and it is likely that this influenced

'Continued on page 8.

Workshops Offered for Conservation Minded Landowners

The Basics of Conservation Easements

July 29, 2011 10 a.m. at the Walker Community Center. John Vigen of Ramsland & Vigen will present basic information on conservation easements, how they are structured and valued, and the potential benefits for the property owners. John is a real estate appraiser certified in the valuation of conservation easements. John Sumption, LLAWF Land Conservation Specialist, will provide information on grants to assist conservation-minded landowners in closing conservation easements. There is no charge to attend the workshop. Please contact LLAWF at 218-675-5773 or email info@leechlakewatershed.org if you plan to attend.

Shoreland Transition Zone Expo '11

August 13, 2011 at Deep Portage Learning Center From 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Varied workshops will be offered on the "whys and how tos" of shoreland and water quality preservation. A tour of nearby shoreland restoration projects will be offered in the afternoon. Exhibitors from public agencies, non-profits, and local businesses will provide information on shoreland preservation. A fee of \$15 per person or \$25 per couple, which includes lunch, is payable at the door. Sponsors include LLAWF, the Cass County Chapter of the Izaak Walton League and Deep Portage Learning Center. To preregister call Jack Fitzgerald at 218-682-2941 or Kathy at Deep Portage at 218-682-2325 or email jjfitz@tds.net.

Cabin Succession Planning: Leaving a Legacy

August 19, 2011 10 a.m. at the Walker Community Center. LLAWF is sponsoring a repeat of last year's highly successful workshop "Your Cabin, Your Family, Your Legacy" on August 19 with Margaret Cronin, an estate planning expert with the law firm of Leonard, Street and Deinard. The family cabin or shoreland property can be a family's most treasured asset. This workshop will provide an overview of different legal and estate planning tools for passing down the family cabin and property to the next generation. Margaret will discuss basic legal and logistical considerations, including cabin trusts and limited liability companies, to help you determine if cabin succession planning is right for you. The cost is \$10 per person or \$15 per couple payable at the door. Preregistration is requested; call 218-675-5773 and leave name, address, phone or email the information to info@leechlakewatershed.org.

LWA & OUTING AREA CALENDAR

June 25

◇ Youth (12-17) Boating Permit class at the Town Hall at 9:00 am. Register at Lake Country Store, Marina or Station.

July 2

◇ Outing Fireworks at nightfall.

July 9

◇ Directors Meeting at 8 AM.

July 16

◇ Emily Days

July 29

The Basics of Conservation Easements seminar at 10 a.m. at the Walker Community Center . Details page 7.

August 13

◇ Shoreland Transition Zone Expo '11
 ◇ at Deep Portage Learning Center From 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
 See page 7.

August 13

◇ Outing History Celebration

August 19

◇ Cabin Succession Planning: Leaving a Legacy 10 a.m. at the Walker Community Center . Details page 7.

August 20

◇ Directors Meeting at (8 AM.)
 ◇ Sandwich Buffet, General Meeting and Elections (5-7 PM)

Fisheries Report Continue from pg. 7.

the DNR's recent decision to acquire the Bear Paw Point property along which a significant walleye spawning area exists. We have not had success identifying crappie or bass spawning beds and there is no expectation that further attempts will be made unless specifically requested by the DNR.

Fisheries Committee: The work of the Committee is done for the foreseeable future and the recommendation has been made that we free committee members so they can support other Association needs. I would like to thank the members (and others) who have been so supportive over the past several years. This includes Howard Dutton, Chuck Johnson, Richard Nelles, Greg Hosch, Richard Schlosser, Jon Rusk, Jerry Hagel, Dave Snesrud, Rev. Joel Baranko (and Roy Smith's pontoon). Cessation of the Committee does not mean that contact with the DNR will no longer will maintained. To the contrary, we value the relationship that has been forged with the DNR and a "point person" will be named to maintain that contact.

Final Thoughts: Assuming the plan drafted by the DNR is accepted by the powers that be, the continued stocking of walleye fingerlings in our lake is a great step in improving the fishery. However, those of us who fish can actually have a greater impact. You probably know what I'm going to say, don't you? Yes...it is called catch and release or if you like fish fries (a fun part of the lake experience), catch and then release some. There is a common sense way of doing this.

Let's start with the **northern**. A recent article in the StarTribune stated that any lake can only support a finite number of pounds of northern. That poundage can consist of a lot of little northern and a few larger fish OR more larger fish and fewer small northern. That's logical. I haven't heard any angler bragging about catching "hammer handles;" I have heard many anglers complaining about doing so. If you want the opportunity to catch (and release) more,

larger northern, we have to all begin keeping the smaller ones (under 24"). There is another fishery reason for doing this...the smaller northern eat more of those cherished walleye fry and fingerlings than do the big northern. And, that makes a good segue to the walleye.

When fishing for **walleye** in Lake Washburn, it's not unusual to either catch nothing or to catch really nice fish. And catching those really nice walleye can be a dilemma— do I keep or do I release? Walleye that are 18"-22" length are our prime breeding stock. Each of those females can lay as many as 400,000 eggs! Each year!! All of the eggs do not hatch of course, but with a little luck, it wouldn't take long to surpass whatever number of fry and fingerlings is provided by the DNR. So, please consider releasing walleye that are within the 18-22" range; pinch the barb off the hooks (you will be just as successful and the fish are easier to release); and, don't carry walleye around in your live well if they are going to be released. One other thought...studies show that smaller fish have few toxins and are safer to consume.

Bottom line, consuming small northern and releasing the larger northern; and releasing larger walleye and maybe keeping fewer of the small walleye (yeah, I know, it's rare to have that option) can do more for our fishery than anything the DNR is able to do. And, consuming some of the increasing number of bass might not be such a bad idea, either. Try to protect the natural habitat. Walleye spawn primarily along shorelines where wind and waves roll in; generally the west facing shoreline. Even though they may spawn in those areas, if silt and dirt cover the eggs, they will not hatch. So, try not to remove the rocks in the water and don't run the lawn right down to the water's edge. What each of us chooses to do can make a difference. Let's work together to protect our resource and to share the fun of catching and then releasing all of our bigger fish.

Outing Is a Hub for Wildlife Research for Past 17 Years

By Richard Nelles

Washburn Lake for the past 17 years has been a hub of activity for radio collared deer, wolves and now fisher. The deer project of 17 years was reported in this publication in the past. It consisted of radio collared does and fawns. A unique part of that study was vaginal implant transmitters in pregnant does. At birth the DNR was able to go right to the newborn fawn. This was a great tool for management of the whitetail deer.

There were four deer yards in the Remer area. In those yards were also radio collared wolves. As a result of this study between the two animals, scientists were able to determine that the two animals can coexist. The study proved that there are adequate deer for both the wolves and the deer hunters.

In April of 2011 a radio collared female wolf that was collared in September 2010 near Highway 7, gave off some interesting data. It had a GPS collar on it that reported to a Satellite every 15 minutes with time and date of its location. There were heavy concentrations at known private recreational winter deer feeding sites, near Trelipe Lake and Washburn Lake. It appears the wolf found some good places to hang out this past winter.



A Fischer study in the Washburn Lake area is now into its 3rd year. Live trapping of Fishers is being done during the winter. Radio collars are being placed on the male and female Fishers. The primary objectives of the study are to: (1) estimate survival rates and cause of mortality; (2) describe and quantify features of natal den sites used by females; (3) directly estimate parturition rates and, if possible, litter sizes of radio marked females; (4) evaluate how survival or reproduction varies as a function of forest attributes, prey abundance and weather conditions. Remer area is also where live trapping is done by DNR wildlife research biologists.

This year six Fishers were collared within a one mile radius of Lake Washburn. This doesn't mean there is a large population here. The study up to this point has shown females travel up to four miles and males eight miles. One female caught the first year of study on Washburn peninsula traveled 17 miles. We do have a favorite on Washburn. She has had three kittens three years in a row, just off the County and State Ski Trail on the east side of the lake. A property owner in that area got her picture on a trail camera, eating his tomatoes. Two weeks ago we went in on a mortality signal, on collar of a male caught this winter on Bear Paw. It was located south of 48. It had been killed and picked apart by a bald eagle. At this same site were two raccoon carcasses also picked apart. On the way in we did see an adult Eagle fly out of a tree next to Dagget Brook. Fisher carcasses when retrieved go back to Grand Rapids Regional Office Necropsy lab. There, they try to determine the cause of death. There is a lot of predation on these animals.

Dr. John Erb MN, DNR head researcher for the Fisher project will speak at The 50 lakes foundation on Sept. 16 2011. The Foundation always invites the public at no charge.

As a DNR volunteer I would like to thank private property land owners for permission to go on their land. They being Barbara Harrington of Bear Paw, Donnie and Connie Anderson, Robert Holman, Robert Beard, Victor Sather, Donna Mac Kenzie, Dixon Blosberg, Gary Anderson, Kenneth Lundgren, Kenneth Le Voir, Kevin & Paula Malikowski of east Outing and three families in Blind lake Township.

Some Facts and Information on the Elusive Fisher

The **fisher** (*Martes pennanti*) is a medium-sized mammal native to North America. It is a member of the Mustelid family, commonly referred to as the weasel family. The fisher is closely related to but larger than the American Marten (*Martes americana*). The fisher is a forest-dwelling creature whose range covers much of the boreal forest in Canada to the northern fringes of the United States. Names derived from aboriginal languages include **pekan**, **pequam**, and **wejack**. It is also sometimes referred to as a **fisher**

cat, though it is not a feline.

Males and females are similar in appearance but the males are larger in size. Males are between 35–47 in in length and weigh between 8–11 lb. Females measure 30–37 in and weigh between 4–6 lb. The fur of the fisher varies seasonally, being denser and glossier in the winter. During the summer the colors become more mottled as the fur goes through a molting cycle.

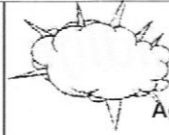
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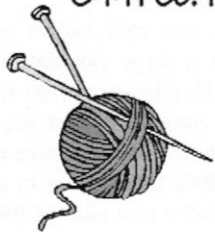


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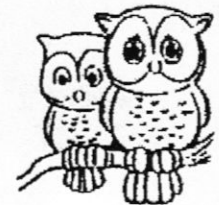
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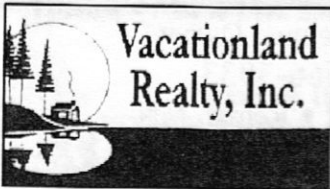
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Fishers Continued from p. 9

Fishers prefer to hunt in full forest. While they are agile climbers most of their time is spent on the forest floor. They also prefer to forage where there is a lot of fallen dead wood on the forest floor. Fishers are omnivorous and will feed on a wide variety of small animals and occasionally fruits and mushrooms. They show a preference for the snowshoe hare and are one of the few predators able to hunt porcupine. Despite their name, fishers seldom eat fish.

The reproductive cycle of the fisher lasts almost the entire year. Female fishers give birth to a litter of three or four kits in the spring. They nurse and care for their kits up until late summer when they are old enough to set out on their own. Females enter estrus shortly after giving birth and leave the den to find a mate. Implantation of the blastocyst is delayed until the following spring when they give birth and the cycle is renewed.

Fishers have few predators aside from man. Fishers have been trapped since the 18th century for their fur. Their pelts were in such demand that they were driven to near extinction in the early part of the 20th century. Conservation and protection measures have allowed the species to rebound but their current range is still reduced from its historic limits. In the 1920s when pelt prices were high, some fur farmers attempted to raise fishers. However, their unusual delayed reproduction made breeding difficult. When pelt prices fell in the late 1940s most fisher farming ended. While fishers are usually shy and elusive, humans are encroaching into their forest habitat.



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Notes From The Boathouse: Fuel Facts and Tips

By Kirk Smith, Land o' Lakes Marine

Somewhere, somewhere, there is a guy. Every morning that this guy wakes up, it is his job to say, "The Price of Gasoline Today shall be \$XXX.9 per gallon". Wouldn't it be great if we could kidnap him and replace him with 'OUR GUY'? Can you say \$1.29. 9 per gallon? Can you remember 100 Octane Premium? Without moonshine in it? Can you remember saying (to the FULL SERVICE ATTENDANT) "Fill her up" and then handing him a five? Pretty sure those days are gone forever. I guess we just need to adapt and overcome.

Speaking of overcoming, I just returned from Outboard Fuel School. What follows are some highlights and pointers about how to overcome fuel problems. This is not an exhaustive tome on the subject but just a few facts and tips.

Facts:

1. Fuel octane DOES NOT equate to power. It is a rating of resistance to knock.
2. Alcohol has 30% less power in it than gasoline
3. Alcohol is added to gasoline to oxygenate it, lower emissions and help farmers.
4. Alcohol molecules are much smaller than gasoline molecules, allowing it to permeate and damage materials that are not resistant to it
5. Current law allows for 10% ethanol in oxygenated fuels (15% or E-15 is being considered)
6. Alcohol has an affinity for water
7. Current alcohol fuels will "phase separate" in a very short period of time if water is present in the tank (the alcohol separates from the gasoline and takes any water with it to the bottom of the tank)
8. If you are running mixed gas, the alcohol phase will NOT contain any oil.
9. Gas station pumps with ONE NOZZLE and several fuel grade selections, may have as much as 3 GALLONS of what the guy

before you bought, in the lines between the pump and the nozzle.
10. Alcohol based 'fuel drying additives', when added to ethanol fuel will only make it worse!

11. Winter and summer grades of fuel are not created equal.
12. The presence of alcohol in fuel lowers its boiling point, making it more susceptible to vapor lock.

Tips:

1. Whenever possible, buy NON-OXYGENATED premium fuel. Use it in every gas engine you have except your daily driver.
 2. If you must buy your Non Ox premium from a '1 nozzle pump', pump the first 3 gallons into the tank of your road vehicle (thus insuring you have received a tank of actual non ethanol fuel for your boat).
 3. Test your favorite gas station's fuel occasionally for alcohol. Test kits are available locally and inexpensively.
 4. Never fill the tank of your boat in Minnesota, for storage, after October 1st or before May 1st with ethanol fuel. These are winter blend fuels with lower vapor pressures (making engines easier to start in colder weather but easier to vapor lock in warm weather).
 5. Non-ox premium is no longer being blended differently for winter and summer, making it safe to buy anytime (per our local distributor).
 6. Use a fuel-stabilizing additive regularly with all marine and small engine fuel being stored in your tank (read the fine print: if the filler agent in the additive is alcohol, don't buy it!)
 7. If your tank has a manual vent, close it after every use to prevent water invasion and condensation.
 8. If you have had issues with water in your fuel, consider installing a water separating fuel filter
- So, just a few thoughts about fuel for the upcoming season. Hope the price of gas comes down soon (yeah, right). Boat Safe, Happy Landings.
PS Anyone knowing the whereabouts of the guy who sets the gas price, call me.

Join us for a dive!

We are always looking for divers to join us for our dives. Dives start about 8 am on Saturday and Sundays and general last a tank (just over an hour usually). We are likely to dive almost every weekend this summer. It is great way to contribute back to the lake and stay fresh on your diving skills. As discussed, the Association will reimburse various expenses (See page 6). Also, if we succeed you can say you helped rid Eurasian Water Milfoil from Washburn!

Contact Ted (tjohnsonCPA@comcast.net) or Scott at 651 488-9773.



Volunteer Bill Pudwell, an experienced ocean diver gets ready to see what is in Washburn!

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