

# Lake Washburn Association Newsletter

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

# Late Summer / Early Fall 2014

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Minnesota Lakes Trivia

DON'T FORGET TO SEND IN YOUR 2014 MEMBERSHIP DUES

# WANTED

DEAD. NOT ALIVE

Eurasian Watermilfoil

(It's back—See article on page 3)





#### **FACT:**

- Increased boat repair and maintenance costs (One boat owner in Vermont spent \$800 repairing his boat when the motor intake became clogged with milfoil)
- Declined native plant diversity (Madsen, et, al. 1991; Trebitz 1993)
- Depressed real estate values (Bates et. al 1985)
- Inhibited water circulation (Smart and Doyle 1995)
- Reduced levels of dissolved oxygen, enables nutrients to accumulate...possibly creating unfavorable conditions for macroinvertebrates and fish (Lillie & Budd 1992)
- Reduced density of invertebrates (fish food) (Keast 1984)
- Three to four times fewer fish versus native plant beds (Keast 1984)
- Caused significant increases in permanent pool mosquitoes (Bates et. al 1985)

# 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STANDING COMMITTEES

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Buoys: Steve Carlson & Dave Oleson

County Road 48 Clean up: Keith Ahlquist

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Forestry & Wildlife: Richard Nelles

Watercraft Inspection: Bob Holman & Les Raisch

Water Patrol: Steve Carlson

Water Quality: Dave Snesrud 763-753-2790 snesrud@usfamily.net

Webmaster: Ron Reich

www.lakewashburnmn.org WashburnLA@outlook.com

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This spring and early summer we experienced the worst flooding in state history and although the later summer has had less rain the statewide fire danger is still LOW. I want to thank you all for complying with the Sheriff's No Wake boating restriction throughout this period of high water, especially over the busy July 4th weekend. I also hope the impact of all this water on you and your lake place has been minimal.

As you are no doubt aware, an area of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) has been discovered in the East Lake. The details of this location and treatment plan are covered in an article by? on page? I would like to thank Bob Holman and Ted Johnson for coordinating our effort against this threat to out lake. I would encourage everyone to be aware of and avoid travel through the area marked with buoys. Also be on the lookout for EMW in other areas of the lake and report any other suspected infestations.

#### **Annual Membership Meeting**

Over 60 folks were is attendance at the Annual Membership meeting on August 9th. After the reports of Officers and Directors, elections were held where the following were elected:

President – Ron Reich Vice President – Bob Holman Secretary – Jan Judd Treasurer – Linda Snesrud Directors – Keith Ahlquist Richard Nelles Les Raisch Ken Reynolds Larry Pfaff Greg Gilbertson

I must take this opportunity to express my deep heartfelt thanks to these Officers & Directors in addition to the sitting Directors and Committee Chairs listed on this page. These are the folks that really do all the work and make my life easier. All I have to do is ask anyone of them to do a task and I am confident that it will be accomplished thoroughly and efficiently. It is my pleasure to welcome new directors Larry Pfaff, Ken Reynolds, and Greg Gilbertson to the Board.

Following the business meeting Ellen Leger gave everyone a view of Pre-1900 Lake Washburn, the first chapter of the Lake Washburn History. The History Committee is preparing this book which will be available at the Centennial Celebration of Cabins on Lake Washburn July 30th 2016. Meredith Novak, Assistant Manager, Spire Valley Hatchery spoke about their activity of raising trout and stocking them in some of our local lakes and other lakes around the state. We were also encouraged to visit Spire Valley on Hwy 6 for an informal tour of their facility.

(Continued on page 11)

IT'S BACK by Ted Johnson

Hopefully you have all heard the unfortunate news that Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) is back. Initially David Snesrud found the main area (which turned out to be 7.7 acres) while fishing in the East basin. If that was not disheartening enough PLM Lake & Land Management Corp., our chemical applicator, and I found another 2.3 acres to the south of the 7.7 acres and closer to the original infestation that was found in 2009. Then Les Raisch, Bob Holman and I followed up on a tip from Ron Gaskill who found a spot just to the northeast of the 7.7 acre site while fishing. This site turned out to be 1 acre.

On September 3rd we treated all three sites – 11 acres. The total treatment cost was \$22,350.90. We chose Max G, a granular product which has two active ingredients and attacks the plants simultaneously in two different ways. A granular product releases slowly which is critical in ensuring adequate contact time with the plants. Additionally we treated at the highest dose allowed to hopefully eliminate all the plants.

There is some good news. The original infestation has not reappeared and that treatment was five years ago. However, the infestation has moved north over time. This is likely due to fragments that were moved by wind and currents.



If we can stop it from getting a foothold in other parts of the lake, the natural movement over time might move it into the northwest portion of the East basin which might be too shallow to support the milfoil and has no real human traffic to move it. That location would very easy to treat as well. Unfortunately this means we have a lot more work to do and we will need both human and financial resources.

#### Lessons learned...

We haven't seen the Eurasian Watermilfoil reappear where we treated in 2009 and have performed good follow-up surveillance. The problem appears that some plant fragments moved north with the wind and water before we managed to kill all the plants.

While SCUBA diving is very helpful, it appears to be best for following up on treated areas to make sure it is not reappearing and identifying spot treatment areas in previous infestations. We currently have only a handful of divers and have had difficulty finding common weekends to dive. Moreover, divers have a difficult time getting through areas of thick vegetation.

Fishermen knowing what to look for and being observant are the best means of finding EWM in the other areas of the lake. *All of our larger sites were initially located by fishermen*. Unfortunately not all fishermen are paying attention. Frankly, if they were, I am confident we would have found some of these new locations last year or even the year before. If we had found them earlier, we would have had to treat a fraction of the area we just treated. That would have saved significant money and reduced the risk of further spreading. So, please keep an eye out for Eurasian Watermilfoil while on the water.

Part of the scouting I did the week before Labor Day was taking my 7 year-old son fishing, drifting over areas, and looking at the vegetation while we fished. Every time my son pulled up a weed he asked if that was a bad one or a good one. Not too difficult... and when the fish were biting slowly it added something to the fishing. We did find

(Continued on page 12)



# CABIN CLOSE-UP—A TIME TO INSPECT BOATS AND WATER EQUIPMENT FOR INVASIVE SPECIES

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources asks every cabin and lakeshore owner to watch for aquatic invasive species (AIS) when removing docks, boat lifts, swim rafts and other equipment from the water.

"Since those items have been in the water for several months, now is the ideal time to spot invasive species that may be attached to them," said Heidi Wolf, DNR invasive species unit supervisor. "Carefully inspect everything you remove from the water to see if there are invasive species attached. Your observations will provide invaluable information to the DNR in tracking the distribution of AIS – and give us a chance to rapidly respond if new infestations are found."

People should look on the posts, wheels and underwater support bars of docks and lifts, as well as any parts of boats, pontoons and rafts that may have been submerged in water for an extended period. In newly infested waters, adult zebra mussels may not be abundant and there may only be a few mussels on a piece of equipment. On a smooth surface, juvenile mussels feel gritty, like sandpaper.

If a new infestation of zebra mussels, faucet snails or other aquatic invasive species is suspected, the exact location should be noted, a photo taken and a specimen should be kept for positive identification.

Call 888-646-6367 or contact a local DNR AIS specialist or a fisheries office. Responding quickly to new AIS infestations is critical to help curb the spread into other water bodies.

There are also specific legal requirements for cabin owners and boaters when removing and storing watercraft and equipment for the winter – or hiring someone to handle it:

#### Transporting and storing watercraft

- When hauling boats or other watercraft to a storage facility away from the shoreline property, make sure there are no invasive species attached. It is illegal to transport watercraft with invasive species attached.
- A list of permitted lake services providers is on the DNR website at <a href="www.mndnr.gov/lakeserviceproviders">www.mndnr.gov/lakeserviceproviders</a>.
- The form should be downloaded, completed, signed and kept in possession during transport. Zebra mussels and other invasive plants and animals must be removed before transporting the watercraft back to a lake or other water body.

#### Transporting and storing docks, lifts and equipment

- It is legal to remove a dock, boat lift, dock, weed roller, swim raft, or irrigation equipment from infested waters and place it on the adjacent shoreline property even if there are zebra mussels or other prohibited invasive species attached. A permit is not required to place equipment on the shoreline. Contact a DNR AIS specialist if an invasive plant or animal is found that has not been sighted on the lake before.
- However, if someone wants to transport equipment from infested waters to another location for storage, cleaning or repair, they must have an authorization form to transport equipment to legally move it to another location.
- If equipment is to be installed in another water body, all aquatic plants and animals such as zebra mussels and Eurasian watermilfoil, must be removed and equipment must be dried for 21 days before placing in other waters.

#### Hiring a business or individual to remove boats and equipment from any water body

- Any business or individual in Minnesota paid to decontaminate, install, or remove boats, docks or water-related equipment is legally required to complete AIS training and obtain a permit before working in state waters.
- Anyone hired to remove a boat or dock must have a current DNR permitted service provider sticker on their windshield. If they work for a lake service provider business, ask to see an employee certificate.

A list of permitted lake services providers is on the DNR website at www.mndnr.gov/lakeserviceproviders.

Learn more about Minnesota's aquatic invasive species rules and regulations, and the DNR's lake service provider program at <a href="https://www.mndnr.gov/AIS"><u>www.mndnr.gov/AIS</u></a>.

# **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### Watercraft Inspection

Les Raisch / Bob Holman he Lake Washburn Association Watercraft

▲ Inspection Committee is in partnership with the

Crooked Lake Township (CLT) Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) to assist each other in preventing the spread of AIS. We received three grants this



summer to assist the cost of inspectors. A grant was awarded from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), a grant from the Public Awareness, and a grant from the Cass County for the 2014 boat monitoring inspection program.

We continued with the program, the same as 2013, with inspectors monitoring normally Friday thru Sunday evenings. Times were set for Lake Washburn for Friday afternoons from 2:00 PM to 8:00 PM, Saturday from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM and Sunday 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM. On holiday weeks or weekends, hours were changed accordingly.

The inspectors provided us important data which we store and forward to the Minnesota DNR. This provides information on how to contend with future contamination of invasive species.

The 2014 season boat monitoring data, to date of August 3, 541 boats were inspected. Of these 541 boats, 357 came into Lake Washburn and 184 departed from the lake. These numbers are only recorded during the hours the boat monitoring inspectors were on duty. More boats may have been launched or left the lake during the off inspection times. Inspection will continue till through the weekend of September 7th, with an estimate of 100 additional boats to be inspected. You can see the inspection program is very successful with a prediction 641 boats for 2014.

With the recent data of boats coming in, we notice some boaters are not pulling their drain plug when transferring from one lake to another. The state law requires the boat drain plug must be pulled in order to transport your boat. Percentages of the number of boat plugs not being pulled slowly increased with the summer season. The month of May was 0.2%, June was 8.1%, July was 12.3% and the first weekend of August was 21%. Please be attentive to inform your family and friends to be compliance to the law. The DNR is discontinuing warnings and will be fining all boaters who do not pull the drain plug of their boat during transportation.

We will continue to work with the Crooked Lake Township AIS Committee for the season 2015 with this inspection program. We want to thank all of you for all of your concerns and your support.

### Wildlife—Loons

Richard Nelles

n Sunday, September 14th, with the help of Dave and Linda Snesrud, the annual loon count was

taken. A total of 14 loons were seen, 6 adults and 8 chicks. One of the adults had two chicks that were quite a bit smaller than the others, and not diving yet, most likely the result of a second nesting attempt. Hopefully they



will be able to develop enough to make the flight to their wintering grounds.

#### **Fisheries**

John Harris—Washburn DNR Liaison



eneral Observation: In J what seems to be good news, there have been numerous reports of walleye being caught on Washburn this year. Even a few stringers of fish have

reportedly been caught but it seems that more often anglers are catching the occasional walleye, many of good size. And, increasingly, many of the bigger fish are being released back into the lake (thank you) where they will hopefully supply millions of eggs in the future. To the extent that many of the walleye caught were large, that is not likely a direct result of the stocking done by the DNR over the past several years; the smaller walleye may be the result of stocking or of natural reproduction as the survivors of the early stocking years should be getting to the 1 lb. size. The DNR continually stresses the importance, in lakes such as Washburn where some natural reproduction is occurring, of releasing larger walleye (17"-18"+) as these are the "spawners."

#### **DNR Activity:**

2014: On June 18th, the DNR stocked 56,214 frylings in Washburn (frylings are larger than fingerlings but smaller than fry). Stocking walleye in Washburn has been a biennial event for 5 years.

(Continued on page 6)

# IN REMEMBRANCE

# Ron Behning



Ron Behning, 83, passed away peacefully on June 21, 2014 at home in Outing, MN. Ron was born in Scobey, MT, grew up in Duluth, MN, and graduated from Duluth Central High School. He attended UMD and Mankato State receiving a Master's Degree in Education. Ron served honorably in combat as a U.S. Marine during the Korean Conflict. He taught school in Coleraine and 30 years in Edina. Ron coached AAU Swimming, Boy's High School Swimming, Girl's High School Softball, and taught Driver's Education. He was an avid outdoorsman and consummate "tinkerer". Ron is survived by his wife of 60 years, Patricia; children, Mary Pat (David) Kollitz, Jill (Lou) Emanuel, Bill (Carol), Nancy Gaalswyk and Betsy Behning; 7 grandchildren; sisters, Joy (Al) Burrows, Donna Franck and Maureen (Duane) Polhamus. Special thanks to Heartland Hospice, Brainerd, MN. A

memorial service was held on Monday, June 30th, at the Cremation Society of MN in Edina. In lieu of flowers, memorials were requested to be sent to Fisher House in Minneapolis.

### 

(Committee Reports continued from page 5)
The DNR will be conducting the annual electrofishing testing in September. This is a late evening project using an electrical device that sends a shock through a small area of the water, stunning any fish in the path of the electrical current. The target is small walleye although occasionally larger fish are also stunned. A scale is removed from each stunned fish and the fish are then returned to the water. The scale is analyzed to determine age and origin (natural reproduction or stocked) of the fish.

**2015:** Gill netting will be done in the summer to survey the quality of our fishery and in Sept, electrofishing will be conducted.

**2016:** This is the final year of the current Washburn Lake Plan. Another stocking of walleye frylings will occur in the summer, probably in June and electrofishing will be conducted in September.

2017: We now reach a critical milestone; was the current plan for our lake successful in improving the fishery? The DNR will conduct both gill netting and electrofishing in an attempt to learn how well the stocking program has worked. After evaluating the results, a determination will be made by the DNR whether to continue stocking and if so, our Association with work with the DNR to develop another management plan.

**DNR Gill Netting:** The results of the gill netting done on the lake in the summer 2013 was more or less hohum. The results were better than our historic results but not quite as good as the results in 2011. Even though the ultimate goal is to improve the walleye fishery, the question is, how do our gill netting results stack up versus other lakes; are we in the hunt or are

we an outlier? In an attempt to gain perspective, I looked at the results of gill netting on several other lakes. The gill netting on Washburn in 2013 averaged 3.53 walleye. Based on number, we ranked 19th of the 24 lakes I looked at. The average weight of the walleye in our gill nets was 1.91 lbs. Of those same 24 lakes, we ranked 6th in the average weight. A more inclusive look at various lakes would undoubtedly change the rankings but it is clear that Washburn is on the low side in the number of walleye but on the high side in the average weight. But, we all knew that, didn't we? It is noteworthy that Cross, Bay, Roosevelt, North Long and Whitefish lakes in Cass or Crow Wing counties all ranked below Washburn in average numbers of walleye per net. Conversely, the top producing lake in this survey was Lake Traverse out in the southwestern part of Minnesota where gill netting produced an average of 42 walleye per net with an average weight of 1.81 lbs. Sigh.

**Northern Zones:** In the previous newsletter, I commented about the possibility of the DNR establishing State-wide three zones for northern regulations. At the time, there seemed to be a lot of energy around this idea. While there may still be energy, not much is happening. To make this happen, the DNR has to gather information from public meetings and then make a formal proposal followed by taking it through the rulemaking process. Bottom line, nothing will probably happen within the next 4-5 years. It's way too early to even pretend to know how new regulations that would impact Washburn but my guess is that it would increase the bag limit of the number of small northern allowed. And, unless you already keep the small northern, while it could help the walleye, that may not be exciting in and of itself.



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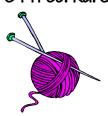
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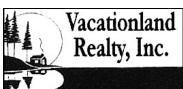
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### (MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT Continued from page 2)

### Sandpiper Pipeline Update

Those who attended the General Meeting in June heard Scott Lucas from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency express with great passion his concern for the environment and the potential impact that will be caused by the proposed Sandpiper Pipeline. As you recall the southern route proposed for the pipeline would bisect Cass County and Crooked Lake Township, following the power line right-of-way south of County 48. At the Annual Meeting Les Raisch reported on the Friends of the Headwaters proposal that encouraged the Public Utilities Commission to investigate an alternative route to the west and south that avoids the lake country completely. The membership voted unanimously to support their proposal. As I am writing this the period for Public Comment to the Public Utilities Commission on the Route Permit has just closed. We will try to keep you updated on the project via email and our website.

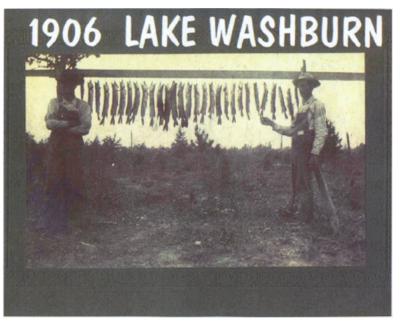
### Opportunities for Serving LWA - Webmaster

By now you are probably immune to requests to get involved with the leadership of the Association. You are thinking to yourself I have a life and I don't have the time to do any more volunteer work. Well let me tell you personally I have found working on the Board is both interesting and self-fulfilling, so I would like to offer you yet another opportunity to become fulfilled.

Currently we are in need of an individual to maintain our website. The task involves updating our web pages by entering new information such as changes in the calendar, list of officers, meetings, etc. The basic requirement to become a Webmaster is that you have access to a computer and not be frightened of technology. We will train you on the specifics of how to update our website; so look at this as an opportunity to develop a new skill. We would also obviously welcome any individual with experience in Information Technology or someone who is currently maintaining a web page. Please contact me for more information on the details of this task.

### Lake Washburn History Project Update

In the Spring newsletter I mentioned the History Committee is planning to deliver the final document "100 Years on Washburn" in the summer of 2016, our Centennial Year. Please keep July 30, 2016, the tentative date for our Centennial Celebration, on your long-range planning calendar. You may recall from the Annual Meeting email announcement that we were looking for more information on the 1906 Lake Washburn photo (shown to the right). The photo was found on the Land O Lakes Marine website however we were unable to determine information to authenticate it. After the Annual Meeting I received a call from Sara Hildreth identifying the individuals in the photo as Art Hildreth and Charlie Taylor. The story of that fishing trip along with the first cabin on the lake in Iowa Camp will be included in the History chapter



covering the period from 1900-1920. The History Committee is always looking for more help with this effort to collect items, research county and historical records, document memories, etc. As you recall stories, discover old photographs and art effects, or anything of a historic nature please contact any of these committee members. We are specifically looking for a photo to be used on the book cover, t-shirts and other memorabilia. Therefore as you submit those photos please indicate if you would like them to be considered for the book cover. Finally if you are interested in joining this committee please let me know. We do have some face-to-face meetings but much of the coordination and communication is done via email.

Have a great end of the summer and a wonderful fall at Lake Washburn.

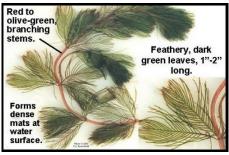
Thanks, Ron

Home: 952-888-7813 Lake: 218-792-5520

Email: rrreich@usfamily.net

#### (IT'S BACK Continued from page 3)

some bad ones. We had a bucket which we used to collect the milfoil, and I took GPS readings (a marker would work as well). When we finished fishing the milfoil bucket simply gets dumped on dry land a decent distance from the water.



There is no shortage of resources to know what Eurasian Watermilfoil looks like. Here are some resources:

http://www.baylk.com/community\_interest/groups/BLIA/EWM/default.htm http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticplants/milfoil/index.html

In the past, Lake Washburn Association has offered free EWM identification classes which were not that well attended. Nevertheless, **we will offer more classes next summer, but people need to show up...** If you want to learn and volunteer we can make that happen. But you do need to make a serious effort. If you have questions, contact the board members. (Their contact

information can be found on page 2.) If you want to join the Board, let Ron Reich, or any other director know!

To see a full blown infestation of Eurasian Watermilfoil, head to Lake of the Isles, Lake Calhoun, or Lake Harriet.

Virtually all the vegetation vou see is Eurasian Watermilfoil. When it is left unchecked it gets so thick ducks can walk on it! I think we should call Eurasian Watermilfoil what it is... Invasive milfoil. The Northern Watermilfoil can get somewhat thick, but it is a non-invasive plant. Eurasian invades and crowds out every other plant. The only reason there is any recreation on the city lakes is that the city mechanically harvests it. Otherwise people could not operate boats on the city lakes... Make no mistake, that is the progression of EWM if we do nothing! It is easy to ignore it but if we



Try to get through that!!! And that develops even with mechanical removal!!!

do our kids will not be swimming or boating in Washburn the way we are.

### So how do we pay for this?

When we initially found Eurasian Watermilfoil, you may remember that I told you how some lakes were receiving \$300 per property owner each year. I suggested we may get to that point someday. I still hope we do not and that we can get better control of the EWM or eliminate it. Unfortunately, I am not sure how it will progress.

As of September 10th, we had \$20,698.10 in our fund for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention and Treatment, which included \$4,785 that Sue Henken Thielen and Gary & Sue Gabel collected on the push to raise funds Labor Day weekend. We have collected an additional \$3,157 as a result of pledges made Labor Day weekend and in response to our emails and the efforts of all others who got the word out. In addition, Bob Holman has worked hard and gotten \$4,000 in grants—\$2,000 each from the DNR and Cass County. Also Bob submitted a \$1,000 request to the Outing Chamber of Commerce, a \$500 request to Crooked Lake Township, and received a promise of \$250 from RALALA. Special thanks to Sue Henken Thielen, Gary & Sue Gabel, and everyone else who spread the word. Because of these efforts and past contributions to the AIS Fund, we were able to cover the treatment cost.

(Continued on page 13)

#### (IT'S BACK Continued from page 12)

This is great, but now we need to continue to build up the AIS Fund so that we can do follow up treatments, and are not surprised again and can react aggressively if we see the EWM spread. We must be proactive and not reactive for future action. Until we have a good handle on what costs look like going forward I firmly believe we need to try

to raise \$100 per year per property. The more of our neighbors that participate the less the amount each of us have to contribute.

The \$100 might seem like a lot, but how much are your property taxes? On average our taxes are around \$2,000 a year. The most tangible thing we receive for that are roads, which some of you only use part of the year! Very few of us have kids in school in Cass County which is what the vast majority of our tax bill supports. \$100 would represent 5% of the average tax bill. Your contribution to our AIS Fund (like real estate taxes) is **tax deductible** but unlike taxes can be restricted in how it can be used. 100% of AIS contributions go



toward preventing and fighting the spread of AIS. The AIS Funds have NO administration costs and all the volunteer hours that are contributed increase the impact of every dollar contributed.

Many people have been generous, but everyone really needs to step up and help. Ask your neighbors if they have done their part.

This is our lake, let's take care of it.

### 22ND ANNUAL BOAT PARADE by John Harris

The 22nd (or maybe 21st) annual 4th of July weekend boat parade, progressing from Birch Bay, past Bear Paw and to the "Iowa Camp" area, was held on Saturday, July 5th. This annual parade of decorated boats, celebrating the founding of our great country, was initiated by Jack and Grace Schuller in 1992-93 and organized by them each year thereafter until 2013. The turn-out this year was impressive with an unimpeachable source stating that he and his wife had counted 42-45 boats participating.

This year there was a special treat. Harry & Sandy Schlieff's daughter was married that morning during a wedding ceremony at their cabin. Following the ceremony, the wedding party joined the parade; the bride and groom even had their first dance on the pontoon!

Along the route, once again Bigfoot came out of his hideaway in the dark, dark forest to announce his presence and even Dracula, who stuck pretty much to the shadows, braved the daylight to watch the decorated boats go by. As usual, some docks and swim rafts were brimming with youngsters and young-at-heart adults armed with squirt guns, water balloons and even a hose, eager to ambush boats. Of course, some boats were also "armed" so water battles sprung up. While many of the boats were prepared for the battles, newcomers were likely surprised. The parade did become somewhat disjointed the lead boats kept chugging merrily along while a few of the boats further back paused to give battle with the ambushers. This caused all boats behind them to also pause. Next year, we'll encourage all boats to maintain their pace and if it is battle they want, to come back after the parade is completed to take on those who may be lying in ambush.



### **EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL: FACT SHEET**



"Who would have thought that a few weeds would ruin our favorite spot? I guess we should have done more to STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!"

urasian watermilfoil is an invasive, submersed (underwater) aquatic plant accidentally introduced in the 1940s to North America from Europe, where it is widespread. It most likely reached eastern North America through the aquarium trade, entering the waters when aquarium owners released the contents of their aquariums into local lakes. Eurasian watermilfoil flourished and began to spread westward by clinging to recreational boats. People using Lake Minnetonka near Minneapolis, reported the first Eurasian watermilfoil infestation in Minnesota in 1987. Eurasian watermilfoil now occupies over 290 water bodies throughout the state.

# WHY IS EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL A CONCERN?

- → Eurasian milfoil is a highly aggressive aquatic plant that can form dense mats which congest waterways and crowd out native aquatic plants. These mats can limit boating, swimming, and fishing.
- → Dense growth of Eurasian milfoil can alter and degrade the habitat of native fish and other wildlife. This disrupts predator-

prey relationships by keeping out larger fish, and takes away nutrient-rich native plants that waterfowl need.

- → Milfoil is readily dispersed by boats, motors, trailers, bilges, live wells or bait buckets, and can stay alive for weeks if kept moist.
- → Eurasian watermilfoil may also lead to poor water quality and algae blooms in infested lakes.
- → It can potentially reduce property values. Under severe conditions, property owners and lake associations can expect increased costs to keep boat channels open by mechanical harvesting and for costs associated with disposal of rotting vegetation.

#### HOW DOES EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL SPREAD?

Eurasian watermilfoil is readily spread naturally through stem fragments and underground runners, which are

abundant in infested waterways. Accidental cutting of the plants can start new plants when the fragments may be carried downstream by water currents or inadvertently picked up by boaters and carried to new areas where they can root and grow.

# WHAT ARE THE REGULATIONS ABOUT EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL IN MINNESOTA?

It is unlawful in Minnesota to:

- Transport aquatic plants, including Eurasian watermilfoil or other prohibited species on public roads.
- Place a boat or trailer with attached aquatic plants or prohibited species into Minnesota waters.
- Transport water from infested waters.



### TREASURER'S NOTES by Linda Snesrud

Membership for 2014 is 182. This is down significantly from past years. We have just learned that we have another outbreak of Eurasian Watermilfoil. This is going to be an ongoing battle, and we must remain vigilant to control it and stop it from spreading to other parts of the lake. In order to accomplish this we need the support of all lake residents. Renewal of your membership or joining the association for the first time is one way to do this. There is still plenty of time to send in your 2014 dues. Check the expiration date above your name on the mailing label to see if your dues are current. Encourage other members of your family who enjoy the lake to join as well.

So far 72 lake residents have answered our plea for help, and made a contribution to our Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Fund. THANK YOU—your support is greatly appreciated. (A list of those who have donated will appear in the next newsletter.) If your dues are paid, please join the 72 others and make a contribution to the AIS Fund. (You may use the membership form and select "Contribution Only".)

### NOW IS THE TIME TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!

Renew your membership, join for the first time, or make an additional contribution to the AIS Fund.

Reminder: Lake Washburn Association is a 501(c)3 organization and BOTH membership dues and additional contributions are tax deductible.

Please welcome the following new property owners:
Robert & Sharon Ruud of Mound, MN—Eastburn Road
Chuck & Laura White of Woodbury, MN—Eastburn Road
James & Lisa Newpower of Cottage Grove, MN—Peninsula Road
Richard Snyder & Susan Tyra—Coontail Drive
Willard Dague—Fehrs Drive







### MINUESOTA LAKES TRIVIA

- The Great Lakes (Superior, Huron, Michigan, Ontario and Erie) make up the largest continuous volume of fresh water on earth, with Lake Superior covering the greatest area of any purely freshwater lake.
- There are only four counties in Minnesota with no natural lakes: Mower, Olmsted, Pipestone, and Rock. Otter Tail County has 1,048 lakes, which is the most lakes of any county in the United States. We always say the Minnesota is the land of 10,000 lakes; however, there are actually 11,842 lakes in Minnesota that are larger than 10 acres!
- The largest lake in Minnesota is Red Lake, which includes both the upper and lower portions. Second in line is Mille Lacs and third is Leech Lake. The lake with the most shoreline is Lake Vermillion at 290 miles.
- The deepest lake that borders Minnesota is Lake Superior, which reaches a maximum depth of 1,290 feet. The deepest inland natural lake is Lake Saganaga in Cook County (240 feet deep), The deepest lakes in this area are Six, which reaches 140 feet and Otter Tail, which reaches 120 feet.
- With all these lakes, it takes quite a lot of names to cover them all. There are a few names that were used abundantly. Maturally, these are names that describe the shape or the nature of the lake. There are 115 lakes in Minnesota that contain the word "Long". Coming in second is "Mud", which is used 92 times. Third most used is "Rice", covering 78 lakes.