



Lake Washburn Association

Working to protect our lake and its environment for future generations

Spring Newsletter 2012

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Message from the President:

By Ron Reich

Welcome back up to the lake for the 2012 summer season. You remember Minnesota experienced a relatively warm dry winter. Nancy and I were in the southwest so we missed most of that great weather up here. In fact we woke up one morning in Sedona to 3" of snow. The good news, it melted by noon and we did get in some golf. The day we returned to Minnesota the temperature was warmer than today. Since then we have seen a relapse of early spring and certainly not a lack of moisture. Well, whatever the weather the calendar says it's now time to get back up to the lake and enjoy the beautiful North Country.

In my last message I mentioned that I would be writing about the lake clarity monitoring effort conducted by the Minnesota Pollution Control Authority. Specifically the Citizen Lake Monitoring Program (CLMP) and the significance of the Secchi disk readings to Washburn Lake. Water clarity monitoring has been occurring for almost 150 years. The Secchi disk originated with Fr. Pietro Angelo Secchi, an astrophysicist, who was requested to measure transparency in the Mediterranean Sea by Commander Cialdi, head of the Papal Navy. Secchi was the scientific advisor to the Pope. Secchi used some white disks to measure the clarity of water in the Mediterranean in April of 1865.

Various sizes of disks have been used since that time, but the most frequently used disk is an 8 inch diameter metal disk painted in alternate black and white quadrants. The Secchi disk is used to measure how deep a person can see into the water. It is lowered into the lake by unwinding the rope to which it is attached until the observer loses sight of it. The disk is then raised until it reappears. The distance below the surface of the water where the disk vanishes and reappears is the Secchi disk reading. That's all very simple, right? Well it's not exactly that simple. Secchi disk readings do not provide an exact measure of transparency because of variations due to the sun's glare on the water, the eyesight of the observer, prior weather conditions, lake activity, and many other factors; however the Secchi disk is an inexpensive and straightforward method of measuring water clarity.

Because of the potential for variation between practitioners, methods are standardized as much as possible. A Secchi disk measurement should be taken off the shady side of a boat between 10 am and 2 pm. The same observer should take Secchi depth measurements in the same manner every time.

Secchi disk measurements are an integral component of Minnesota's lake water quality assessment programs. The Citizen Lake Monitoring Program utilizes lake residents to make periodic Secchi depth measurements and submit readings to the MPCA. Currently six sites are being monitored on Washburn Lake as indicated by the black triangles on the map below.

The greatest value of the Secchi disk measurement data is not for comparing lakes to one another but in comparing readings from a specific lake over time. The chart below, which was taken from the CLMP web site, shows a summary of annual data for more than 1200 readings taken on various dates during the open water season at various locations on Lake Washburn since 1986. Note, the median varies significantly from year to year but the trend is upward. The trend line calculated by CLMP from all this data indicates an increase of 1.32 feet per decade, which equates to over 3 feet since 1986. In other words Lake Washburn has become clearer over the past 25 years.

Continued on page 7...

Save the Dates!

- June 9th Annual Spaghetti Dinner
Highway 48 Clean-up; 10AM

- June 11th Hazardous Waste Collection
Noon to 5:00 p.m. at the County Highway
garage parking lot in Walker, south of
Jimmy's Restaurant

- June 30 Youth Boat Permit Class
9AM Contact Gary Gabel 792-5709

- July 7 Washburn Boat Parade
Assemble in Birch bay near the Schuller's
Outing Fireworks Luscher Park

- July 9th Hazardous Waste Collection
Noon to 4:30 p.m. at Slagle's Transfer
site, 7 miles east of Longville

- July 21 Emily Days

- August 11 Annual Meeting (General Election
(Sandwich Dinner Planned)

- August 17 Hazardous Waste Collection
August 17: 1:30 – 5 p.m. at Croke
Lake Town Hall

- August 18 Lions Corn Feed



Peaceful, serene boat parade

Do not miss the Boat Parade July 7th!

Board Of Directors and Volunteers

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STANDING COMMITTEES

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Boat Monitoring: OPEN

Conservation & Preservation: Ted Johnson
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Fishery: John Harris
763-427-3938 jnhnj@yahoo.com

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Second Round of Anti- AIS Legislation signed into law!

A slate of new laws designed to curb the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) was approved in a recent bill passed by the Minnesota Legislature and signed by Gov. Mark Dayton.

A program requiring watercraft owners to place an AIS rules sticker on their boats is being discontinued and replaced with an online education program. Watercraft owners will no longer be required to place on their boats the rectangular, silver and black decals, which include a summary of the state's AIS laws.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) began distributing the decals earlier this year and will continue to give them to interested boat owners for informational purposes only.

A new law, which goes into effect 2015, will require anyone who transports watercraft or water-related equipment with a trailer to complete an online education course. After completing the course, the person will receive a decal that must be placed on their trailer, certifying they have taken the course. People taking the course can receive extra stickers if they own or use multiple trailers for watercraft or water-related equipment.

"The black and silver decal is no longer mandatory for boaters, but it is still a good informational tool to help boaters know the AIS laws," said Luke Skinner, aquatic invasive species program supervisor. Boaters who have

decals can still place them on their boats or trailers as a reminder.

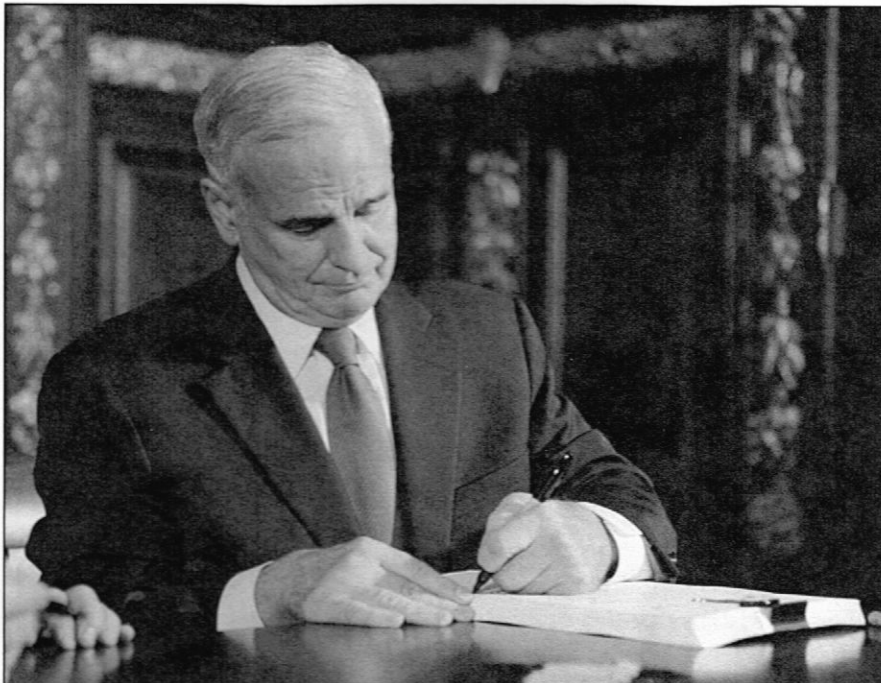
He said the DNR will begin developing the online AIS course soon to implement the new decal requirement for 2015. The penalty for not displaying the decal will be a warning, not a citation.

Other new AIS laws will be instituted July 1, 2012, as a result of the new legislation:

- Civil penalties for violating the state's AIS laws will double. Fines that currently range from \$50 to \$250 will increase to \$100 to \$500, depending on the type of violation. For example, failure to remove a drain plug while transporting a watercraft will mean a \$100 fine, instead of a \$50 penalty. The fine for unlawfully possessing and transporting prohibited aquatic invasive species will increase from \$250 to \$500.
- Boat lifts, docks, swim rafts and other water-related equipment (except boats and other watercraft) that are removed from any water body may not be placed in another water body for at least 21 days. The drying out period is designed to kill any AIS that might be attached to the equipment that are high risk and difficult to clean. Two zebra mussel introductions occurred last year as a result of water equipment being sold and moved from one water body to another.
- Boat clubs, yacht clubs, marinas and other similar organizations are now considered lake-service providers, requiring permits for the clubs and staff working there to take AIS certification training.
 - Portable bait containers used while fishing through the ice do not need to be drained before leaving a water body, unless the water body has been declared to have viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS), a virus that is deadly to fish.

The DNR was given additional authority to require mandatory inspections of water-related equipment before a person places or removes equipment into or out of a water body and to set up inspection stations at a centralized location to cover multiple lakes. The new legislation also allows the DNR to delegate this authority to local governments that have an approved inspection plan

More information about the DNR's aquatic invasive species programs can be found at www.mndnr.gov/invasives.



Governor Dayton signs AIS Legislation into law.

Please Stay Away! Nesting Loons abound!



About a dozen years ago the Lake Association increased its efforts to help nesting loons, and it built/purchased several nesting platforms. Today our 7 platforms provide a relatively safe location for the loons to nest as predators such as skunks and raccoons have difficulty reaching the floating nests. The floating nests also help keep the nests safe from rising lake levels that can flood nests. Washburn has one of the strongest loon populations in the state on nesting habitat is a key contributor to this.

PLEASE use common sense and do not get close to the loon nests or the chicks. Loons are protected species and it is illegal to harass them. DNR guidelines recommend staying at least 100 feet from loon nests.

Julia Helene Betts 1939-2012

Julia Helene Betts, 72, of Ames, passed away February 29, 2012. Julia was born in Monona, Iowa September 14, 1939 to Christian and Ruth (Daug) Anderson. She married Daniel Betts June 5, 1960 at St. Matthews Lutheran Church in Dubuque. She enjoyed painting birdhouses which she gave away to friends, reading, shopping, and spending summers at the cabin at Lake Washburn, Minnesota. She especially enjoyed spending time with her family and doing things for them.

Julia is survived by her husband, Daniel, of Ames; daughters, Audrey (Mark) Wheeler and Kathy Naatjes; son, Dan (Kris) Betts; brothers, Christian (Sandy) Anderson III and Eric (Laurie) Anderson; five grandchildren, Katie Wheeler, Danielle Kahrs, Kim Naatjes, Emily Naatjes and Alex Betts. She was preceded in death by her parents. Memorials may be made to the family.



Fisheries Report: And so another season begins!

By John Harris, Fisheries Chair

As is typical during the "hard water" time of the year, not much has happened regarding our fishery since the February report. Even though crappie fishing is going on, and that's a big deal for many, as I write this what we generally think of as "THE FISHING OPENER" is still a few days away. The ice went off the lake really early this year, one of the earliest dates ever for that to have happened. Those of you who pursue the elusive walleye are likely wondering how the early ice out will impact fishing this year, especially during the first couple of weeks. By the time this newsletter is in your hands, you'll probably have that question answered. Longer term, there may be a negative impact as, at least in some lakes, it is expected that the walleye hatch will occur before their natural food chain develops leading to a lower than average survival rate. Hope not.

So, how was your opener? If you were skunked, and I'm betting there were a few that were, here is a list of top excuses for getting skunked as compiled by the *Outdoor Life* magazine. Maybe you've used some of them:

Forgot the bait, Too cold, Too hot, Too hungover, Lake's fished out, Water's too choppy, Water's too calm, Jet skiers, Ran out of beer.

Mike Knapp, Assistant Area Fisheries Supervisor, calls to our attention changes that will impact us (See page 3 for Laws provisions).

LEGISLATIVE:

LAKE WASHBURN FISHERY:

Washburn is scheduled to receive a 56,000 fryling stock-

ing this summer, probably in June.

FYI, fryling are larger than fry and smaller than fingerlings:

Fry – 100,00/lb
Fryling – 800/lb
Fingerlings - 15-35/lb

It appears that the continued stocking of young walleye by the DNR and an increase in natural reproduction bodes well for future success, fishing for our favorite game fish. That assumes that the early ice out does not have a negative impact on this years' hatch.

I have a friend, who I've known since childhood. Benny is one of those guys who always seems to catch fish. A few years ago, I decided to tap into Benny's expertise to see if it was possible to duplicate his success. I asked, "Benny, you always seem to catch fish. How do you do that... what is your technique?"

He responded, "That's simple, John. It's like this, I just fish for whatever is biting!" I was disappointed.

That wasn't the answer I was expecting but after thinking about it, he was probably right on. I tend to get hung up on catching a single species (think walleye) while there are a lot of other edible fish in the lake that are probably willing "volunteers" for the frying pan.

Maybe some of you have the same hang up.

Have a great time fishing. If you are willing to do so, please share your fishing experiences with me, good or bad. jnhnj@yahoo.com

Fishing and hunting fees increase and wolf hunts legalized

It will soon cost more to get hunting and fishing licenses in Minnesota.

Gov. Mark Dayton signed a bill to boost a range of fees with the money going to bolster wildlife resource management. Adult resident fishing fees will go up from \$17 to \$22 a season, and from \$25 to \$35 for a married couple. A deer hunting license for residents will rise

from \$26 to \$30. Other fees will rise by similar amounts.

The fee hikes were sought by a coalition of outdoors groups and supported by Republicans and Democrats in the Legislature.

The fees were contained in a larger game and fish bill that also establishes an annual wolf hunt in Minnesota, subject to a state-set quota.

Purple Loosestrife—the battle continues!

By Linda Snesrud

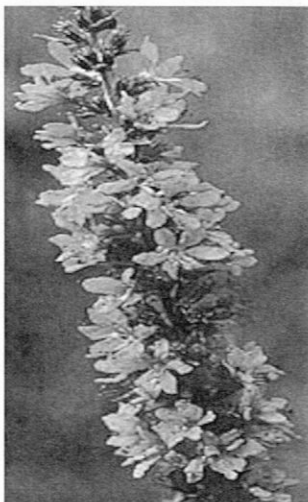
In the summer of 2007, Dave Snesrud discovered Purple Loosestrife on the east shore of the East basin. During the following years he found it down as far as the East Narrows and on the islands in East Lake. In 2010 Jerry Ballard found what he thought was Loosestrife on the west shore of the East basin (Iowa Camp). Jerry contacted Dave, and he confirmed that it was Loosestrife. Dave & Richard Nelles found the plant along the shores of Richard's property. To date it has not found in the North or West Basin.

Purple Loosestrife is a beautiful but aggressive invasive species. It is a very hardy perennial which can rapidly degrade shorelines and wetlands, diminishing their value for wildlife habitat. When Purple Loosestrife gets a foothold, the habitat where fish and wildlife feed, seek shelter, reproduce and rear young, quickly becomes choked under a sea of purple flowers. Areas where wild rice grows and is harvested, and where fish spawn, are degraded.

In the first two years, after consulting with the property owners, Dave treated the Loosestrife on the east shore with Rodeo (an approved chemical for treatment near the water). He first cut off the flower heads and put them in a plastic bag. Wearing protective rubber gloves with cotton gloves over them, Dave "wicked" Rodeo on each individual plant. In the summer of 2009, after discovering Loosestrife on the islands in the East basin, Dave applied for a DNR Permit to treat that area. In each of the next years, Dave has returned to pull plants that have returned.

Along the shore of Iowa Camp, after Dave instructed Jerry Ballard and a couple of his neighbors how to properly get rid of the plant, they began the process of eliminating the Loosestrife. Richard Nelles is also working on eliminating it from his property.

Things to Keep in Mind



How to Identify:

Flower: Individual flowers have five or six pink-purple petals surrounding small, yellow centers. Each flower spike is made up of many individual flowers.

- Proper disposal of plant material is important. Put all plant pieces in plastic bags (vegetation rots quickly in plastic) and take the bags to a sanitary landfill site. Be sure the landfill site doesn't require bags to be broken open for composting. Composting is not advised, as purple loosestrife seeds may not be destroyed and the thick, woody stem and roots take a long time to decompose. *If facilities exist* in your area, incineration is an effective way to dispose of plant material.
- Be aware that your clothes and equipment may transport the small seeds to new areas. Thoroughly brush off your clothes and equipment before leaving the site.
- Keep site disturbance to a minimum. Wetlands provide habitat for many native song birds, waterfowl, mammals, amphibians, and fish which depend on native wetland vegetation. Wetlands are also home to many rare and delicate plants. Take care not to trample or damage native vegetation when controlling Purple Loosestrife.

The battle against Loosestrife is a long one. It can take up to ten years to fully eliminate this invasive species, as each mature plant produces up to two million seeds a year and it can reproduce from just a small piece of root.

If you suspect you have Purple Loosestrife or would like to help Dave in his battle against this invasive species, please contact him by email at snesrud@usfamily.net, or call 763-753-2790 and leave a message including the best time to contact you.

If you would like more information about purple loosestrife, the problems it causes, and regulations to prevent its spread, or methods and permits for its control, contact:

Minnesota-DNR

Purple Loosestrife Program
500 Lafayette Road



Leaves are downy, with smooth edges. They are usually arranged opposite each other in pairs which alternate down the stalk at 90 degree angles, however, they may appear in groups of three.

Stalks: Stalks are square, five or six-sided, woody, as tall as 2 meters (over 6 feet) with several stalks on mature plants.

Message from President Continued

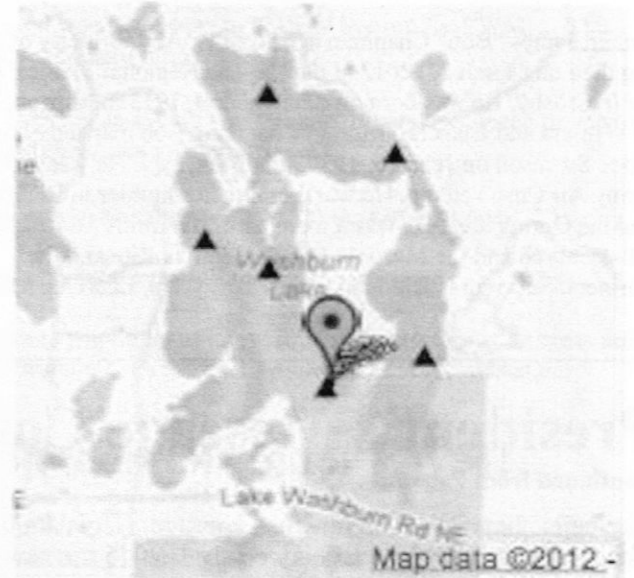
Continued from page 1...

Note the 2011 data is currently being entered into the online database and by the time you read this will probably be available.

The above data along with additional information on the CLMP and Secchi dick readings are available at the PCA web site <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/>

The CLMP is always looking for additional volunteers to help with the monitoring on Washburn. If you are interested and desire additional information check the web site or contact me.

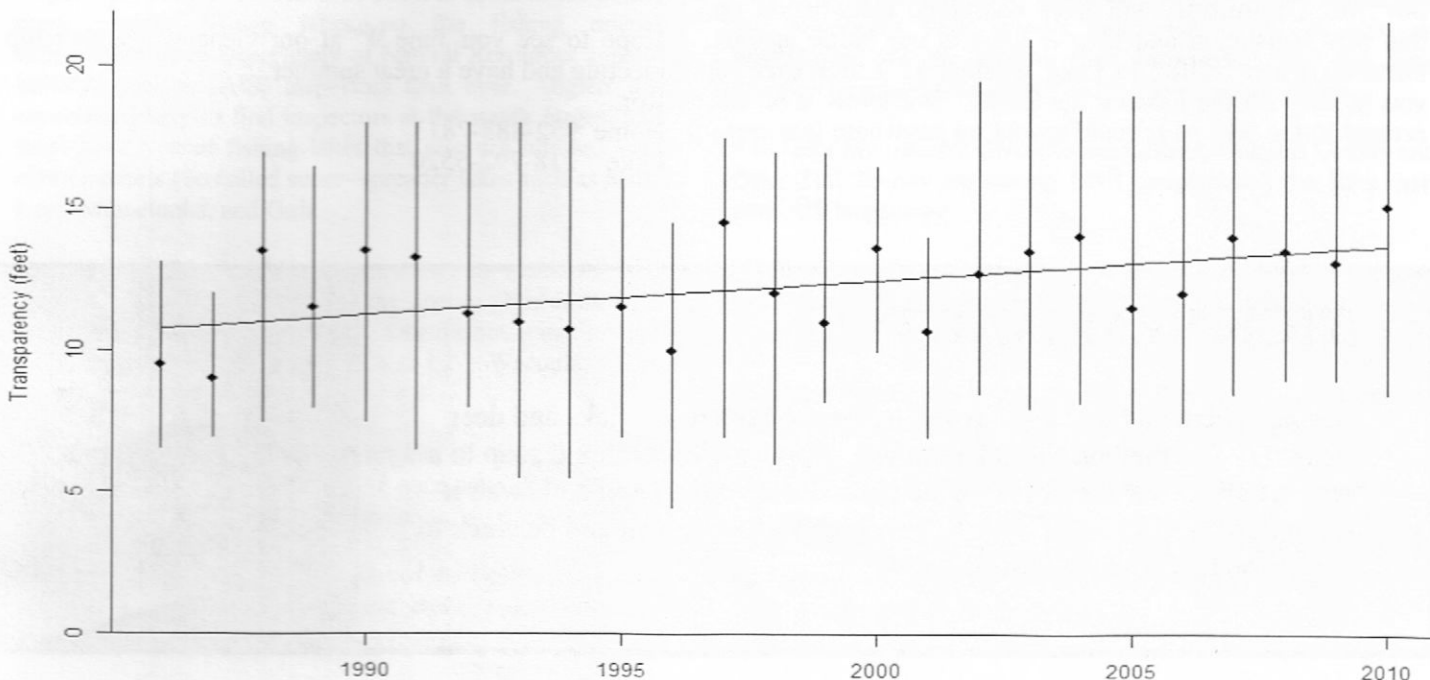
You may also recall from my article in the Spring newsletter the club assists the Cass County Sheriff to maintain safe boating on our lake. Steve Carlson, Chair of the Lake Buoy Committee, has been in contact with the Sheriff and verified the appropriate location for the navigation buoys in our lake. Steve has also worked with Brian Olds who has placed the buoys at the approved locations. The lake map and the associated table of GPS coordinates, included in this newsletter, were prepared by Steve Carlson and Scott Mark based on the marker buoys locations approved by the Cass County Sheriff. The committee is also currently working with the Sheriff for the placement of a buoy to mark the rocks adjacent to the public landing. Please review the map, if you believe buoys are not properly located or additional hazardous areas are in need buoys please let me or Steve know.



As I mentioned previously our goal for this effort is to publish this map and GPS coordinates for the buoys on the web site. It is also reprinted on pages 10-11; copies will also be posted at the public landings and made available at the resorts.

As I am writing this message I have received a number

Continued on page 8...



Bob Chapman 1915-2012

Robert James "Bob" Chapman age 96 of Crosby formerly of Outing died on March 27, 2012 at the Cuyuna Regional Medical Center in Crosby. He was born on September 9, 1915 in Morton, MN to William and Blanche (Ridley) Chapman. Bob married Laurene Alice Swenson on June 16, 1939 in Fairfax, MN. He was a WWII Army Air Corp veteran. He was a contractor/builder in Richfield and the Outing area. He was a member of the Emily United Methodist Church and the Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite and the Shriners. Survivors include his wife of 72 years, Laurene; 3 sons,

Richard (Shelley) Chapman of Las Vegas, Paul (Barbara) Chapman of Mason, MI, and Thomas (Mary) Chapman of Brooklyn Center; 2 daughters, Judith (Daniel) Klement of Remer and Margaret (Robert) Peterson of Algonquin, ILL; sixteen grandchildren, 34 great grandchildren and 1 great great grandchild. Preceding him in death are his parents and 1 brother, Bill Chapman. If so desired memorials may be given to the Emily United Methodist Church or the donor's choice.

President's Message Continued

Continued from Page 7

of emails that Gov. Dayton just approved legislation that strengthens the AIS law. Effective July 1, 2015 the new law:

- Doubles fines for noncompliance of AIS laws
- Broadens the definition of Lake Service Provider
- Requires a 21 day dry-off period for lifts, docks, etc. moved from lake to lake
- Allows DNR to delegate inspection authority local governments.
- Allows DNR to require mandatory boat ramp inspections
- Establishes requirements for inspection stations

I am sure Ted Johnson, Newsletter Editor and Chair of our AIS Committee, will have additional information on this new legislation and how it impacts our battle against Eurasian Water Milfoil in Lake Washburn. I urge each of you to keep on the lookout for EWM. We know it is still present in the lake so it could sprout up anywhere this sum-

mer, consequently if you see any suspicious plants please notify Ted or someone on the committee immediately.

Finally I would like to encourage every owner to get involved with your lake association to help preserve the Washburn Lake and surrounding environment for our children and grandchildren. There are many opportunities to get involved including Boat Monitoring, and Highway 48 clean up. We are also looking for Officer & Directors to run for election at our Annual Meeting on August 11th. Please write, call or email me with your questions, comments, or concerns about the club or our lake.

Hope to see you June 9th at our General Membership meeting and have a great summer.

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

TICK REMOVAL TIP!

Spring is here and the ticks are out in force – both wood ticks and deer ticks. Try this method for tick removal. Apply a glob of liquid soap to a cotton ball. Cover the tick with the soap-soaked cotton ball and swab it for about 15-20 seconds. The tick will release on its own and be stuck to the cotton ball when you lift it away.



Weed Watchers Needed... Ok... what is that?

As we have said before Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) and other Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) are first usually noticed by an alert lake resident. The DNR does not survey lakes for AIS, it waits for a report from citizen like all of us.

Currently we have EWM very well controlled (still basically confined to the area where it was discovered, and we have eliminated any visible patches, and are dealing with a couple of plants in a couple of locations.

Remember EWM and its native cousin Northern Water Milfoil spread as plant fragments take root in new locations.

We need weed-watchers to keep an eye out for EWM.... This could take many forms.

- Keeping an eye on what washes up on your beach or what you see in in your swimming area...
- Keeping an eye out as you kayak, canoe or boat...
- Keeping an eye out as you fish...

Whatever you do let us know so we have an idea what areas are being watched. Please email tjohnsonCPA@comcast.net.

Fisherman..one of the greatest assets in monitoring for EWM!

By Ted Johnson

Real fisherman spend a heck of a lot of time on the water looking for fish... One thing I have started to do is merely add EWM to the list of things I look for...

So when I pull up a weed instead of a fish I check if it EWM. If you find it let me know! Never throw it back in the lake, that will cause spreading!

I try to use drift control anchors rather than damaging the lake

bottom and disturbing the native plants that are hopefully down there. If I do use an anchor. Check it for EWM and make sure it is clean before you leave and go to a new location. You could inadvertently plant EWM in a new location!

It is difficult to tell the difference between EWM and Northern Milfoil, but if see a suspect let me know! Try to take a sample of Suspected EWM and keep it in water until a positive ID is made! Please email tjohnsonCPA@comcast.net or call at 612 619 6533 if you have any questions?

DNR Increases inspections and decontamination efforts at Super Spreader Lakes

Anglers planning to launch their boats at some of the state's most popular fishing lakes on the fishing opener encountered more Department of Natural Resources aquatic invasive species (AIS) inspectors than ever. Anglers are especially likely to find inspectors at the state's largest and most heavily used fishing lakes that also are infested with zebra mussels (So called super- spreader lakes such as Mille Lacs, Minnetonka, and Gull.

As many as 23 portable decontamination machines also were deployed by the DNR for the opener. The units were be staffed at least 16 hours a day. One decontamination unit with inspectors will be stationed near Lake Waconia, where the governor will fish.

Certified inspectors can require anglers to clean their boats or have them decontaminated, if necessary. Boaters who refuse to comply can be denied launching privileges.

The stepped up enforcement is part of the DNR's intensified effort to keep zebra mussels and other aquatic invasive species from spreading throughout the state.

"We've been training DNR employees to be inspectors, and also are developing joint powers agreements with 14 units of government and are training their inspectors," said Jim Japs, assistant director of the DNR's water management section.

The Lake Minnetonka Conservation District, Douglas County and Otter Tail County are among DNR cooperators who have their own AIS inspectors.

In all, about 80 boat inspectors will be at lake and river accesses next weekend. Included will be 54 Level 1 inspectors, and as many as 43 Level 2 inspectors.

Both can inspect boats, but only Level 2 inspectors are trained to operate decontamination units.

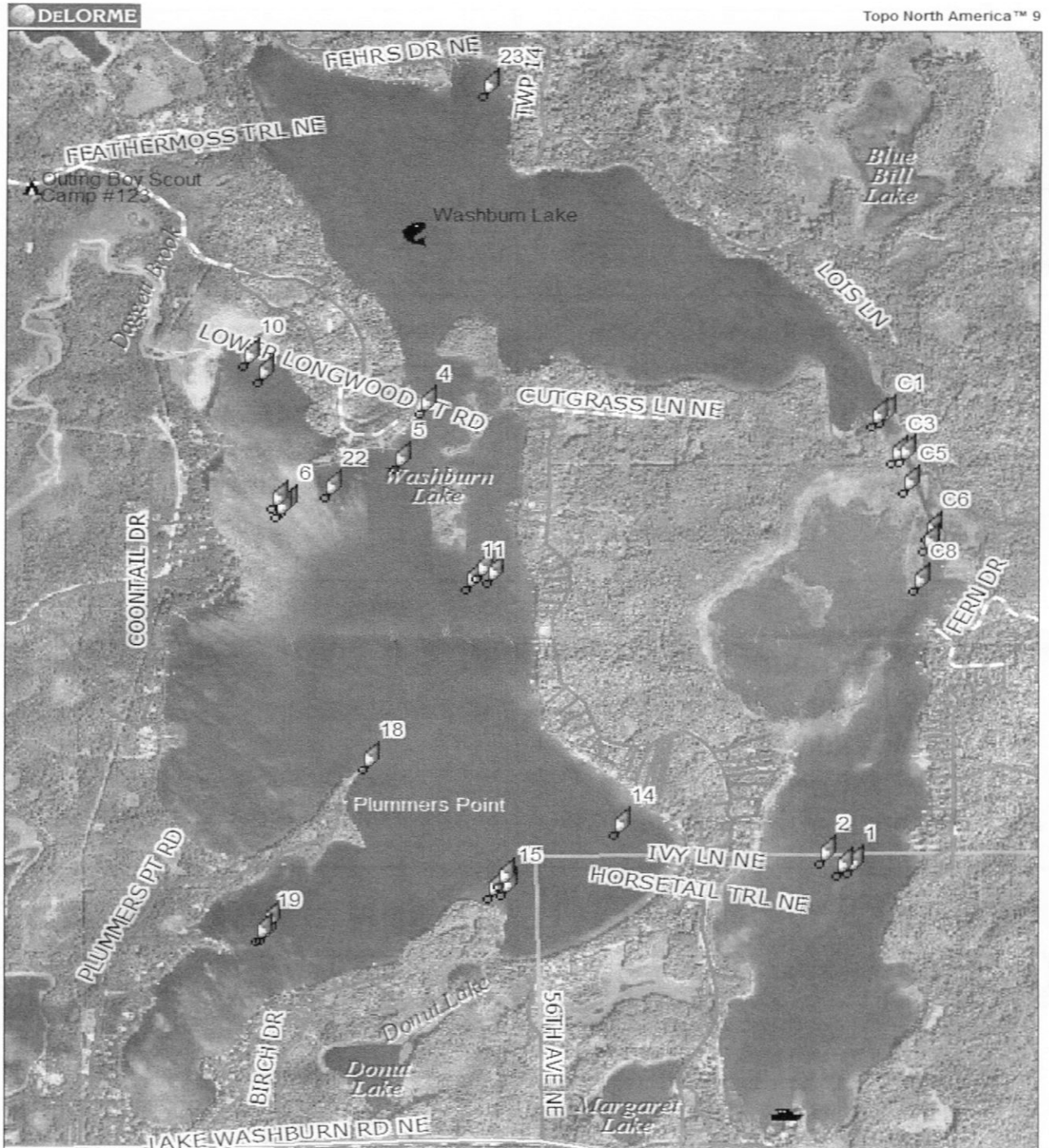
The DNR is in the process of hiring more Level 1 inspectors at \$10 per hour. Boat decontamination can take from 10 minutes to a half-hour, Japs said. The process is free. But it's possible private contractors will enter the business in the future, and boat owners could be charged for the procedure.

LAKE WASHBURN BUOY LISTING

5/2/2012

Buoy Number	Location	Markings
EAST LAKE		
#1	N46 51.6608 W93 58.4402	DANGER DIAMOND
#2	N46 51.6811 W93 58.5154	DANGER DIAMOND
#3	N46 51.6568 W93 58.4677	DIAMOND
EASTBURN CHANNEL		
#C1	N46 52.6682 W 93 58.3559	DANGER DIAMOND
#C2	N46 52.6573 W93 58.3794	SLOW NO WAKE
#C3	N46 52.5762 W93 58.3248	ROCK
#C4	N46 52.5826 W93 58.2994	SLOW NO WAKE
#C5	N46 52.5124 W93 58.2928	DANGER DIAMOND
#C6	N46 52.4062 W93 58.2306	DANGER DIAMOND
#C7	N46 52.3785 W93 58.2334	DANGER DIAMOND
#C8	N46 52.2910 W93 58.2636	DANGER DIAMOND
NORTH LAKE		
#23	N46 53.3956 W93 59.4373	DANGER DIAMOND
WEST LAKE		
#4	N46 52.6908 W93 59.5955	DIAMOND
#5	N46 52.5557 W93 59.6697	DIAMOND
#6	N46 52.4668 W93 59.9695	DIAMOND
#7	N46 52.4528 W93 59.9841	DANGER
#8	N46 52.4741 W93 59.9961	SLOW NO WAKE
#9	N46 52.7563 W94 00.0378	DANGER
#10	N46 52.7829 W94 00.0767	DIAMOND
#11	N46 52.2928 W93 59.4693	
#12	N46 52.3185 W93 59.4427	DANGER DIAMOND
#13	N46 52.3095 W93 59.4140	DANGER DIAMOND
#14	N46 51.7456 W93 59.0697	DANGER DIAMOND
#15	N46 51.6129 W93 59.3751	DANGER DIAMOND
#16	N46 51.6051 W93 59.4127	ROCK
#17	N46 51.6332 W93 59.3809	DANGER DIAMOND
#18	N46 51.8914 W93 59.7437	DANGER DIAMOND
#19	N46 51.5134 W94 00.0261	DIAMOND
#20	N46 51.5361 W94 00.0146	DANGER DIAMOND
#21	N46 51.5095 W94 00.0365	VERT. ORANGE STRIPS
#22	N46 52.5009 W93 59.8517	DIAMOND

Please note that buoys do move in rough weather, and break off. We endeavor to respond quickly, but there are delays do to time and lack of replacement buoys. Please exercise care and do not rely on buoys for navigation.



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www.delorme.com



Editor's Note: The lake association places the buoys under the direction of the Cass County Sheriff's department. Not all hazards are marked so boaters must exercise good judgment. Please let Steve Carlson brodiedog@comcast.net if you think a hazard has not been adequately marked.

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What is a Conservation

A conservation easement is a legally binding agreement between a qualified entity (government agency or non-profit conservation organization) that allows a landowner to voluntarily limit the use and development of their land in order to permanently preserve the land's nature features. Landowners continue to hold title, pay property taxes, and use the land in any way not prohibited by the terms of the agreement. Landowners can sell or lease the land, or transfer it to their heirs, but future owners will also be bound by the terms of the agreement. This is how the land is forever protected. The entity that holds the easement inspects the land periodically to insure that the conditions of the easement are satisfied.

Each easement is unique and is individually crafted to reflect the special character of the land and the particular situation of the landowner. Conservation easements give landowners peace of mind, knowing that their commitment to protecting their land will be forever respected and remain an enduring legacy for their family and their community.

There can also be potential tax benefits (income, estate, or property). The value of the easement, as determined by a special appraisal, may be eligible for an IRS charitable donation and it may reduce estate taxes by reducing the value of the land. Preserving the land with a conservation easement has helped many families transfer their land to the next generation with its natural features intact. A conservation easement that reduces the overall value of the land may result in lowered property taxes; this can vary by local jurisdiction.

Not all land is suitable for protection with a conservation easement. Some small or isolated properties, lands with limited natural resources to protect, or situations in which a landowner desires to retain certain rights that would conflict with an easement's conservation purpose may not warrant a conservation easement.



A footpath in the Bear Paw Aquatic Management Area.

For a limited time, financial assistance grants are available to qualifying conservation-minded landowners who are interested in a conservation easement. This funding is available through the Outdoor Heritage Fund established through the Legacy Amendment of 2008, an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution supporting lands, habitats, waters, parks, and Minnesota's arts and cultural legacy.

For more information on conservation easements in general or participating in the grant program, contact LLAWF at 218 -675-5773 or info@lechlakewatershed.org or Ted Johnson 612 619 6533.

Editor's Note: The Nelles Project represents the third conservation project in about a three year period. The Bear Paw Peninsula was acquired by the DNR as an Aquatic Management Area, made possible by a contribution from the Harrington Family. Additionally the 'Boy Scout Camp' passed a continuing resolution to preserve its 90 acre parcel on North Bay. **The Result is a total of around 150 Acres and almost one mile of shoreline has been preserved! Contact Ted Johnson 612 619 6533 if you think you have a potential project.**

Long-Time Resident Preserves over 1,000 feet of Sensitive Shoreline

Courtesy of Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation

Landowner Richard D. Nelles and sons Bradley Nelles, Bruce Nelles, David Nelles, and Cary Nelles recently completed a conservation easement with Cass County on their DNR-designated sensitive shoreland on Lake Washburn. "My parents bought this property and the property across the channel in 1946 and I've been here on Lake Washburn since I was a kid. Putting the easement on this property (39 acres; 1,180 feet of shoreline) was important to my family and me to preserve its natural features for the benefit of timber, wildlife, and the sensitive nature of the lakeshore" said Richard Nelles. "Conservation was imprinted on me from an early age when my father would take me to the Minnesota Sportsman Show and I was in awe of the DNR and their work to protect our resources, and my grandfather was the first supervisor of the Itasca State Park."

Love of nature has always been an avocation for Nelles. He is an avid volunteer for the DNR who trapped and installed 437 radio transmitters in deer over 13 years and for the past four years has been radio collaring fishers. He has been a firearm safety training instructor for 40 years and in earlier years started a

woodland advisor program in Sherburne County. Nelles helped craft "voluntary best management practices" for forestry management with the Minnesota Forest Resources Council.

It is Nelles' goal to turn his property in to a diversified forest and protect the vernal pools, which are seasonal ponds that support more than 23 different species. "These pools are 'jewels in the woods' of species diversity that are often ignored in normal forest management" said Nelles.

"The process of putting the easement on our property was made easy by working with John (Sumption) and the grant was a very valuable service. Without the financial assistance, the easement probably would not have been accomplished. Before my mother died in 1980, she talked about a conservation easement on the property, now it's finally accomplished. My sons and I are of the same conservation mind and made the decisions together. A future building site has been set aside in the easement for each son and we agreed on only one dock for all dwellings. "



A portion of the Nelles' shoreline will retain this natural beauty...forever.

Washburn Lake Solitude Area: Make the most of it!

By Karna Kurtz

On the east end of Lake Washburn there is a state/county section of property called the Washburn lake solitude Area. You can reach this area just off Hwy 48 about a ½ mile before the State Campground and Public Access area. The Solitude Area contains 23.0 Kilometers (14.29 miles) of "groomed" trails. The trails are located on both the south and north side of Hwy 48. While the North end trails are pretty with views of the lake, the southern trails pass by small potholes with active beaver lodges, multiple water fowl and lots of sign of deer activity. I counted five different types of ferns, saw three types of orchids and many different small spring flowers. Of course, there were ticks as the season would suggest.

This designated skiing and hiking area was recently awarded a grant and management given to a newly created group Lake Country Nordic Ski Association. Their main objective is to maintain the existing trails for skiing. This means that they have been given the equipment, storage area and supplies to groom the ski trails during the winter (skiing) months.

While the Ski group has a specific goal in mind, that does not eliminate the possibility for other community groups to contribute to the use of the area outside the winter months. There is a land management plan that provides guidelines for use of the land. The purpose of the solitude area (called a day use area) is: Subdivision 7, section 1 **Day use areas.** Areas which permit recreational use of the forest units natural state, not requiring an overnight stay, including but not limited to, picnicking, fishing, swimming, boat launching, hiking, interpretation and nature observation.

This plan also calls for many improvements which have not occurred.

- Expansion of the trails by 5 -10 miles.
- Installation of outhouse facilities
- Parking for 15 vehicles (due to the recently logging of the area,

the parking lot can hold upwards of 30 cars)

Cass County and the DNR have not maintained the area, nor completed the expansion plans, for several years (the area was established in 1978) because of staffing levels. Now, that responsibility lies with the community and there are several things that need to be done. These efforts need to be completed through volunteers:

- The sign identifying the turn off was knocked down last fall or this winter, grant dollars are available,
- The benches located throughout the trails are in disrepair,
- Clearing of trees that have blown down and are blocking the trails,
- For summer use, the trails would have to be mowed for optimal hiking,
- Repair the rest areas and fire rings,
- Restore the scenic overlook

My original goal was to be able to create a weekly walking tour for the lake property owners and visitors to the Outing area to better understand the connection

Continued on page 19



Miles of beautiful trails await.

Minnesota Waters Ceases Operations due to Funding Problems

The last several years Minnesota Waters has experienced increasing difficulty in financially sustaining our high quality programs. We painfully felt the impact of contracted state funding, contracted foundation funding and redirected foundation strategies. Although we are a membership organization, members have not been our primary source of funding.

After exploring all other options, including partnerships with similar focused organizations, the Board of Directors has taken action to place the organization in a dormant state which allows the retention of its corporate identity.

Minnesota Waters will be ceasing operations on May 19, 2012. This membership organization has been providing training, connections, and support to empower citizen-led groups to be active, effective advocates for Minnesota's unique waterscape since 2006 when the Rivers Council of Minnesota and Minnesota Lakes Association merged to form Minnesota Waters.

As wonderful members of Minnesota Waters, we know that you are diligent in promoting responsible stewardship of our precious water resources, especially those waters within your own region, keep up the good work!

Our remarkable staff is still working this week to find new homes for all existing programs, plus:

- One last electronic newsletter is in the works.
- We've stopped accepting membership dues.

If you need to contact us for any reason, please do soon.

Again, thank you for all you have done over the past six years; we trust you will keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Your Minnesota Waters' Staff

Continued from page 18

between lake water quality and land use and overall improved understanding of nature. While the things above first have to be accomplished before I can begin a guided tour; there are several additional ideas I have for spring, summer and fall use of the trails.

- A self guided tour through use of markers of trees, plants and landmarks either through a paper map or a GPS information site for smart phones.
- Weekly education tours of the area to discuss change created by man, weather and nature.
- Bird watching events. (While I was at the area on May 15 I identified ten different birds outside of our traditional chick-a-dees, blue jays and nuthatches.)

I have contacted the Lakes Area Nordic Ski group to discuss when and what efforts they have planned for clean up of the area. As our lake association and their ski association discuss collaborative efforts, I hope that many of you will take the time to stop and visit the trails, take a hike and enjoy the beauty of the woods so close to our lake homes.



EWM Hunting Season begins; Special Hunt Scheduled for August 18-19

Last year we completed scores of EWM dives started very early in the year... We covered the areas where we had had Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) a couple of times, by the end of August and we did not discover an EWM until the final dive.

This year we will do some diving during the early summer but we plan to shift our focus a bit and perform more dives late in the summer because EWM sometime seems to get a late start .

So we are planning on diving in mid-August quite a bit and enlisting as many snorkelers kayakers and boats to help. We are targeting the weekend of August 18-19, and we would plan on going out both mornings from 8-10 AM (calm conditions are the best). Some of us might go out the preceding Friday; others may go out Monday as well.

If you can help in anyway please let us know. Our goal is to get a half of a dozen divers, a half a dozen snorklers, a couple of kayakers or canoes, and some people to operate support boats. If the group is that size, we can cover the entire area where any EWM has ever been found very easily and throughly. Hopefully we will find nothing this year.

Nevertheless, as we have said before, we need to have accurate information on the location of all EWM plants. The DNR grants permits to treat areas with EWM present, not area where we suspect EWM! The chemicals are getting better and better and some now target only EWM and are virtually 100% effective. we can treat and kill every plant we know about... We can not treat what we can not see.

Contact Ted Johnson tjohnsonCPA@comcast.net or Scott Mark at 651-488-9773



Pleasant sunsets like this are on the way!

Lake Washburn Association

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

*Memberships and additional donations are tax deductible.

(Re)join the association today the year is young!

By Linda Snesrud, Treasurer

As of April 30th we have 121 memberships for 2012, out of approximately 374 property owners on the lake. For those properties with multiple owners, only those who pay Association dues are entitled to a membership with voting privileges. Adult family members and other significant members of the property owner are encouraged to become associate members. Lake Washburn is a 501(c)3 organization and all dues and additional contributions are tax deductible.

Currently, there are 4 lots and 13 properties with active listings. Please contact Linda Snesrud (snesrud@usfamily.net) if you know of new property owners or properties for sale so we can maintain accurate property owner records. All new property owners are mailed a welcome packet including information on lake property ownership and septic system care, DNR contact information, Lake Washburn Association brochure, and an invitation to join the association.

Welcome to the following new owners and their families:

James & Lisa Thomas of Maple Grove, MN – Sundew Trail
 Mark & Laurie Wolf of River Falls, WI – Coontail Lane
 Lynette & Ralph Wacker of Arlington, MN – Sundew Trail
 George & Sandra Granseth of Des Moines, IA – Eastburn Road
 Richard Coleman & Kelly McKenna-Coleman of Shakopee, MN – Washburn Bay Trail
 Kevin & Kari Switala of Farmington, MN – Eastburn Road
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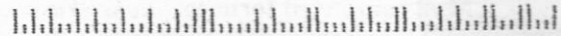


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Lake Washburn Association

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Hazardous Waste disposal dates and locations!

Cass County Environmental Services has set dates for the collection of hazardous waste. Here are four of the six dates.

- June 11: Noon to 5:00 p.m. at the County Highway garage parking lot in Walker, south of Jimmy's Restaurant
- July 9: Noon to 4:30 p.m. at Slagle's Transfer site, 7 miles east of Longville
- August 17: 10:00 a.m. to Noon in Remer at Do It Best Hardware
- August 17: 1:30 – 5 p.m. at Crooked Lake Town Hall

Items accepted at no charge will include:

- Paints and related materials
- Household cleaners and chemicals
- Old gasoline and certain other automotive products
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- Televisions
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For further information go to www.co.cass.mn.us or call the Cass County Environmental Services Department at 218-547-7241.