



Lake Washburn Association

NEWSLETTER

June 1997
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hundreds of lives.



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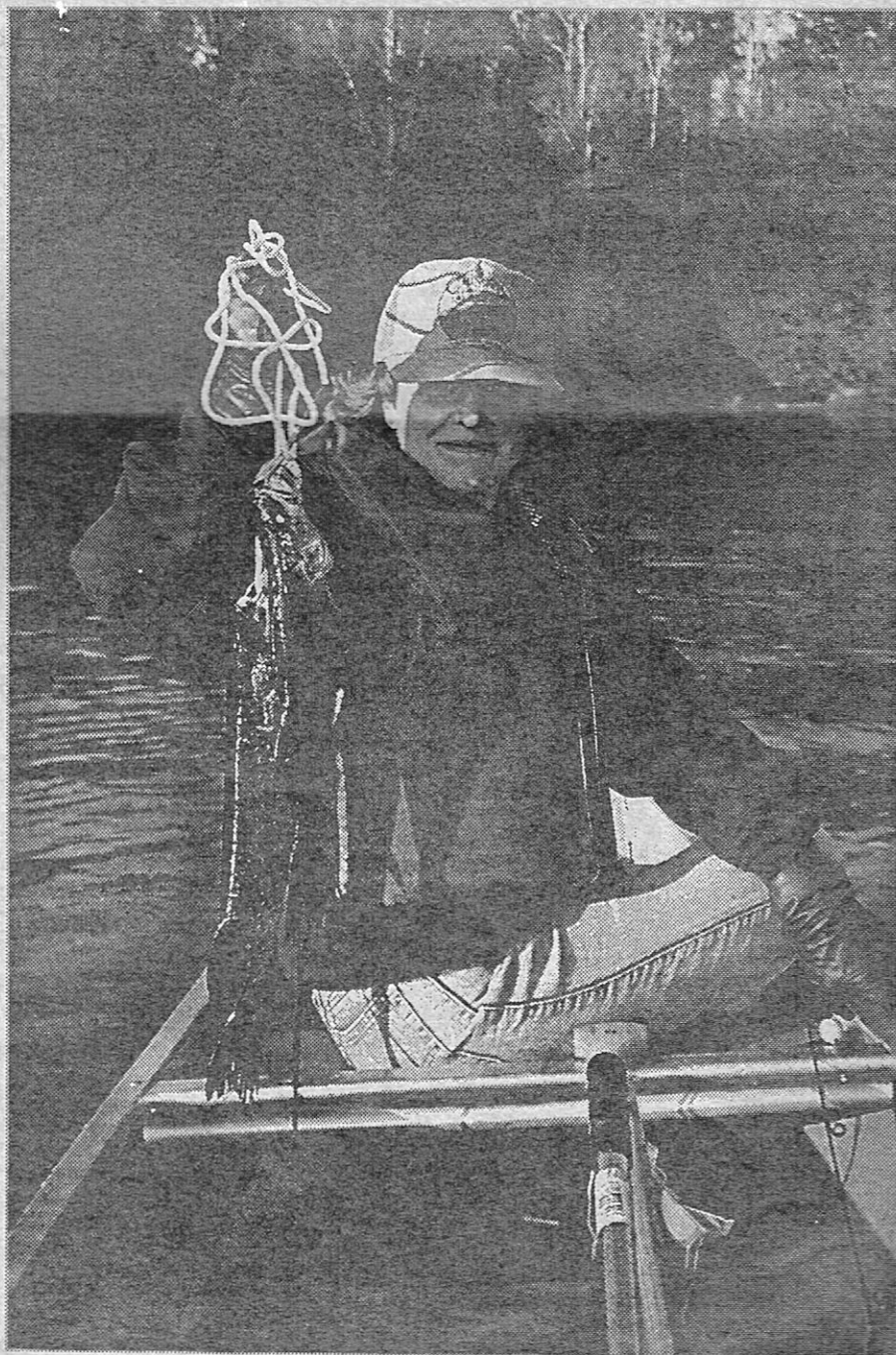
NOMINEES NEEDED

Want to become more active in the Lake Washburn Association? At our August meeting we will be electing new members to the board. If you are interested in any of the following positions please contact any board member or officer.

- President (1 year term)
- Vice President (1 year term)
- Secretary (1 year term)
- Treasurer (1 year term)
- 3 Directors (3 year term)

Being on the Board is a good way to learn more about the Association, as well as meet fellow lakeshore residents. New faces and new ideas help our organization grow and prosper.

Finally! Spring in Washburn Lake





FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Pat Behning

Although it was the winter of the century, spring is now here. Roads are muddy and slick, but it's a small price to pay for the blue skies and warm breezes.



As of May 10th, we have received 154 memberships to Lake Washburn Association. If you have not as yet joined us, please do so by using the membership form found elsewhere in this newsletter. Your membership is important. The larger our membership, the louder our voice when dealing with local, county and state officials.

Hope to see you at the LWA general meeting on June 14th at 9:00 a.m. for coffee and at 9:30 a.m. for the business meeting.



Pat Behning

1997 LWA OFFICERS

Officers:

(all 1 year terms)

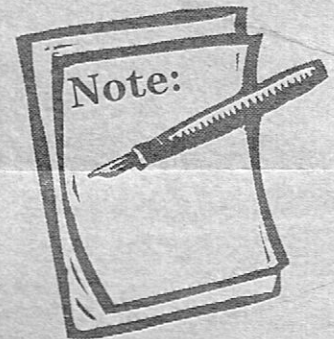
- President.....Pat Behning.....218-792-5111.....Same.....West Washburn Road
- Vice President..Ron Nichols.....218-792-5386.....515-278-4459.....Peninsula Road
- Secretary.....Mark Hegman.....218-792-5499.....612-920-2392.....Peninsula Road
- Treasurer....Marje Anderson.....218-792-5317.....612-241-833.....Eastburn Road

Directors:

- Gary Gabel 1 year.....218-792-5709.....515-289-2265.....Peninsula Road
- Ralph Lindblad 1 year.....218-792-5421.....612-829-5823.....Fehr's Road
- Don Peterson 1 year.....218-792-5257.....Same.....Longwood Point
- Fred Borgwardt 2 year.....218-792-5740.....Same.....Longwood Point
- Harold Hegman 2 year.....218-792-5442.....Same.....Plummer Point
- Rolie Hron..... 3 year.....218-792-5517.....612-934-8050.....Peninsula Road
- John Rask..... 3 year.....218-792-5390.....Same.....Longwood Point
- Cleone Riener...3 year.....None.....612-483-4497.....Fehr's Road

BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

- Marge Anderson -
Camp Portage, 501C
- Pat Behning - President
- Fred Borgwardt - Programs
- Gary Gabel - Buoys
- Mark Hegman - Secretary
- Harold Hegman - Nominating/Auditing
- Rolie Hron - Zoning
- Ralph Lindblad - Sponsors
- Ron Nichols - Adopt A Highway
- Don Peterson - Nominating/Auditing
- John Rask - Buoys/Natural Resources
- Cleone Reiner - Boat Monitor



ADDRESS CHANGES

A reminder – Please add Lake Washburn Association to your change of address list. Having a current listing keeps our postage costs reasonable and insures you will receive our mailings. Thanks!!

MEETING DATE CORRECTION

The LWA August meeting will be held on the 9th. Previously the meeting date had been listed as August 19th.

The directors will meet at 8:00 a.m. An ice cream social will be held at 7:00 p.m. followed by the general meeting at 7:45, August 9, 1997. A \$2.00 donation to cover the expenses of the ice cream social will be appreciated

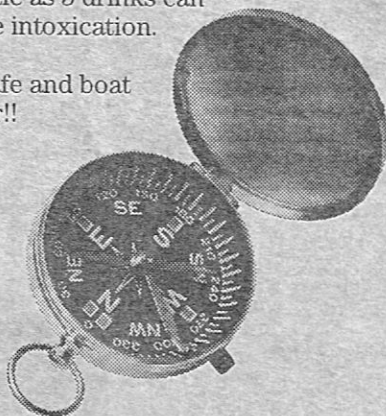


BOATING SAFETY

Each year boating accidents take hundreds of lives. No one expects to have accidents, but responsible boaters plan for safety. Here are some safety tips to follow:

- * Don't overload the boat.
- * Make sure the boat is properly equipped with:
 - paddles or oars
 - fire extinguisher
 - spare propeller and shear pin
 - compass
 - running lights for travel
 - flashlight
 - first aid kit
 - whistle or horn
 - anchor with sufficient line
 - radio for weather reports
- * Each person needs a Coast Guard approved life jacket, easily accessible.
- * At least one cushion or ring available to be thrown to someone in need
- * Be aware of weather conditions. Seek shelter on lee side of an island or in a protected area in the event of high winds. Get off the lake during thunder and lightening storms.
- * Hypothermia (the loss of body heat faster than it can be replaced) can occur even in the summer. Cold water and wind can spell trouble. Avoid prolonged exposure.
- * Bow riding is dangerous and can lead to serious injury or death.
- * Alcohol and water don't mix. Operating a boat while intoxicated is not only illegal, it is dangerous. Alcohol is a factor in over 50% or all boating fatalities. Remember, as little as 3 drinks can cause intoxication.

Be safe and boat sober!!



BONFIRE ASHES

If you enjoy a bonfire near the shoreline, remember to grab a shovel after the fire is out and dump the ashes inland to prevent the phosphorous in the ashes from seeping into the lake. Or better yet, consider moving your fire pit inland, far away from shore.

An average bonfire containing 22 pounds of firewood produces enough phosphorous to raise the level one part per billion in 350,000 gallons of lakewater. Phosphorous stimulates an overgrowth of algae and aquatic plants, which decompose after they die - and in several generations - cause a lake to fill up with muck prematurely and become a marsh.

(Information from Lakeside Minnesota, September, 1996)

TOWNSHIP MEETING

The Crooked Lake Board of Supervisors is attempting to improve communication with the people of the township. Regular township Board meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall. This year, additional meetings have been scheduled so more people can attend.

These meetings will be held on Saturday, June 28th, July 26th, and August 23rd, 1997, at 9:00 a.m. in the Town Hall.

The purposes of these meetings are to take public input and to transact normal business.

DEEP PORTAGE CAMPS

The LWA is offering two \$100.00 scholarships to children and/or grandchildren of Lake Washburn Association members. These scholarships are for boys and girls ages 10 - 14 who wish to attend Camp Portage by Hackensack, MN.

For further information on dates, types of camps and cost please contact:

Marje Anderson
HCR 3 Box 197A
Remer, MN 56672
218-792-5317
or 612-241-8333.

HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

Bids for construction on Highway 6 between Crosby and the Mississippi River were made on April 25, 1997. The start date was set for May 27th.

A detour will be in place from highways 210/6 to County Road 31, through Cuyuna, to County Road 30, and back to Highway 6. The detour will end just south of the river.

It is anticipated that the project will take 60 working days to complete, according to Paul Koenig, DOT, Brainerd.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Our Adopt A Highway program will be held the weekend of the Fourth of July and Labor Day.

Boat monitoring at the Clinton Converse public landing was done Memorial Day weekend and will also be done over the Fourth of July and Labor Day. Sign up sheets for your participation will be at the June general meeting.



BOATS TRANSPORTING AQUATIC PLANTS TO BE FINED

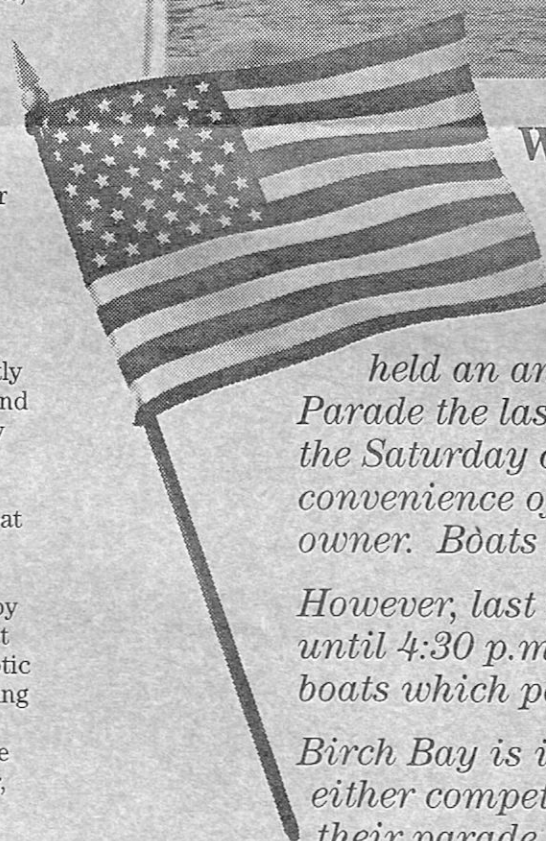
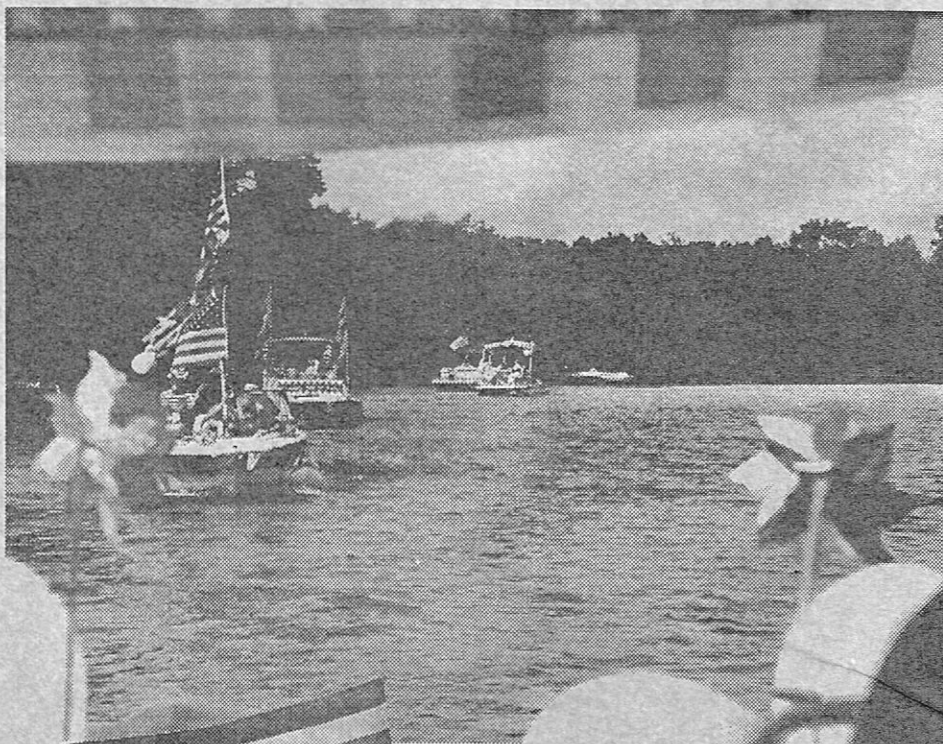
Each holiday weekend the Lake Washburn Association has people at the public boat ramp to check over boats entering and leaving Lake Washburn. They are looking for Eurasian milfoil, zebra mussels, etc. in an effort to keep our lake clear of these exotic species.

Last August 3, an educational road check of boats, conducted by the DNR in the Chisago Lakes area, found that many boaters are still inadvertently transporting aquatic plants. During the road check, DNR officers examined 188 trailered boats, 102 of which carried aquatic plants. While almost all of the plants discovered during this road check were NOT Eurasian watermilfoil, some boats traveling from infested waters had milfoil either on their trailer, anchor, motor or boat. This high percentage has DNR officials concerned, said Jay Rendall, DNR exotic species coordinator.

"Because of the difficulty of correctly identifying Eurasian watermilfoil, and because any aquatic plant can carry zebra mussels, boaters need to completely remove all plants from their boats before they leave the boat landing", Rendall said.

A law passed in the spring of 1996 by the Minnesota Legislature to protect the state's waters from harmful exotic species makes transporting or placing aquatic plants illegal and carries a \$50-\$1000 civil penalty. Because the law was relatively new last summer, only warnings were given. Rendall said "We will be stepping up enforcement of the exotic species laws during the boating season." He added, "This road check shows that many people still haven't gotten the message, or are not taking it seriously."

(Information from Lakeside Minnesota, September, 1996)



WANT TO JOIN IN A FOURTH OF JULY BOAT PARADE?

Birch Bay residents have held an annual Fourth of July Boat Parade the last three year. It is held on the Saturday closest to the Fourth for the convenience of the seasonal property owner. Boats gather at 1:00 pm.

However, last year they were rained out until 4:30 p.m. There were about 12 boats which participated in the parade.

Birch Bay is inviting any other areas to either compete or join with them in their parade. They have a great time!!

For more information contact, Jack or Grace Schuller, 792-5256.

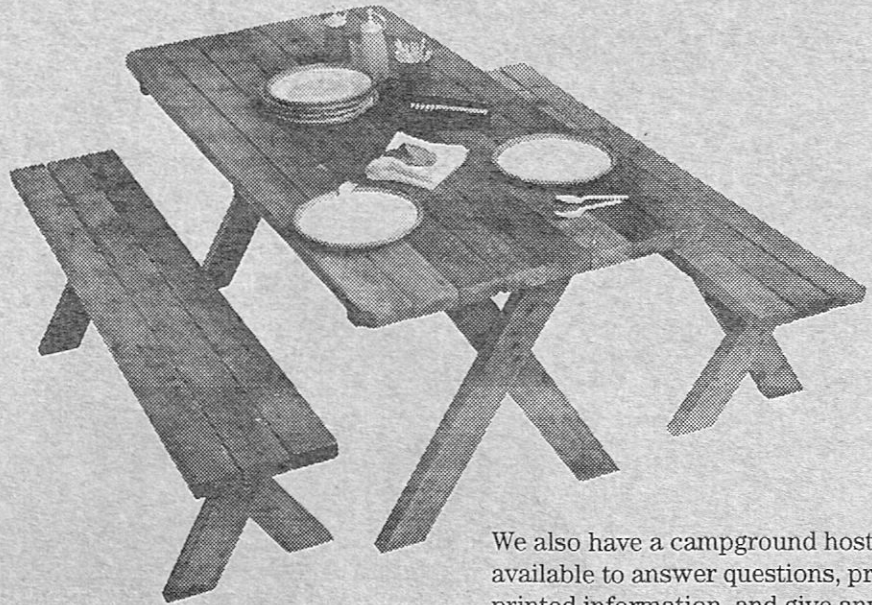


LAKES WITH EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL

As of August 10, 1996, the lakes listed below were identified as being infested with Eurasian Watermilfoil. If you, your friends or family, use boats in any of these lakes, please be sure to have them check the boat, trailer, motor and anchor rope for any aquatic plants before launching into Lake Washburn. We, and future generations thank you!

- Anoka County: Cenaiko, Crooked, Otter, Unnamed (in Springbrook Nature Center)
- Carver County: Ann, Auburn, Bavaria, Loftus, Minnewashta, Pierson, Riley, Schutz, Stone, Virginia, Waconia, Zumbra
- Chisago: Green Lake, Rush
- Crow Wing: Bay
- Dakota: Crystal, Lac Lavon, Twin Lakes
- Douglas: Oscar
- Hennepin: Arrowhead, Brownie, Bryant, Bush, Calhoun, Cedar, Christmas, Dutch, Eagle, Fish, Forest, Harriet, Haiwatha, Independence, Lake-of-Isles, Libbs, Little, Long, Medicine, Minnehaha Creek, Minnetonka, Niccum's Pond, Nokomis, Parker's, Rebecca, Round, Sarah, Schmidt, Swan, Whaletail, Wirth
- Kanabec: Knife
- Omlsted: George
- Pope: Gilchrist
- Ramsey: Bald Eagle, Gervais, Island, Keller, Silver, Sucker, Vandais, Wabasso
- Scott: Lower Prior
- Todd: Sauk Lake
- Washington: White Bear, St. Croix
- Wright: Augusta, Beebe, Clearwater, Little Waverly, Pulaski, Rock, Sugar, Waverly
- Multiple: Mississippi River: downstream of St. Anthony Falls

(Information from Lakeside Minnesota, September, 1996)



CLINTON CONVERSE CAMPGROUND & WASHBURN LAKE PUBLIC ACCESS REHABILITATION PROJECT

In the fall of 1996 reconstruction of the Clinton Converse Campground and the Public Water Access began but was not completed due to weather conditions. The upper sites of the campground and the new access were completed for fall camping and boating activities.

Clinton Converse Campground has seen no major improvements since its inception some 40 years ago. The campground also needed to provide for the needs of physically challenged individuals who use the campground facilities. New accessible toilets, hard surfaced paths, parking pads, and tent pads will all provide for everyone's ease and use of the facility. Several sites will be designated for use by physically challenged persons.

We also have a campground host available to answer questions, provide printed information, and give any other assistance they can to provide for an enjoyable camping experience.

The Washburn Lake Public Access was also relocated to slightly northeast of its original site. The new access will provide better parking area and help to keep the activity of the campground and the access better separated for safety and noise problems. It will also serve the physically challenged with a concrete pad leading to a dock to provide easier boarding onto watercraft.

The wading beach and picnic facilities will also see some changes with expansion of the beach area and a hard surfaced path to it for ease of accessibility.

With good spring weather conditions we hope to have the entire project completed by the opening of the camping season. Stop in and take a look and see the changes which we feel have enhanced the natural beauty of the area.

Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry

Correction: Outing Forestry Office's Phone Number is 792 - 5383.



BEES & WASPS

Wasps and bees are beneficial insects which feed on harmful lawn and garden insects. Bees provide more than 75% of the pollination required by ornamental, fruit and seed plants.

These insects usually nest in spaces in the ground, around porchsteps, under siding, in walls or eaves or in hollow trees. If the bees/wasps are not bothering you, leave the nest alone. If undisturbed, they won't disturb you. If a nest needs to be removed, it can be sprayed with a 2 1/2% carbaryl (Sevin) solution. This may need to be done for several days, before removing the nest.

Wasps/bees have a bad reputation because of their ability to sting. Reactions to a sting include hives and/or itchiness, difficulty in breathing or loss of consciousness. About 20-25 people in the US die each year of insect stings.

(Information from Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service)

DNR RIM DOLLARS

The DNR recently received a total of \$1,550,000 from the state finance department to carry out projects to help fish, wildlife and native plants. These funds, which support the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) program, were appropriated by the legislature during the 1996 session.

"The RIM program continues to be one of the best ways Minnesota can invest in its fish and wildlife resources, which provide recreation, jobs, and stronger communities through the state", said Gov. Arne Carlson.

The DNR will spend the state funds on the following projects:
 -\$500,000 for wetland and upland acquisitions. The money will purchase wetlands to provide habitat for waterfowl, shore birds and other wetland life.
 -\$500,000 for acquisition of Scientific and Natural Areas. The money will be

used to protect rare and endangered species habitat significant to Minnesota, geological features, and native plant communities from urban development, mining and other threats by turning them into SNA (Scientific and Natural Areas).
 -\$250,000 for fisheries improvements. The money will pay for aeration systems on lakes as well as shoreline improvement on Lake Winnibigoshish.
 -\$300,000 for fisheries acquisitions. The money will pay for easements on private lands along trout streams, and land purchases that protect fisheries habitat such as undeveloped lake shores, and fish spawning areas.

WATER HOTLINE

The Minnesota Water Line, a toll-free phone service based in Duluth, has expanded and is now serving the entire state.

Deanne Rouquet, the Water Line Coordinator, will take questions about household water issues, wells, septic systems, resource issues and other water related concerns. She can be reached Monday thru Friday, from 9:00 am to noon, at 1-800-455-4526 or e-mail at: droquet@d.umn.edu.

Some interesting water facts:

- One gallon of gas can contaminate 750,000 gallons of drinking water.
- It takes 540 billion gallons of water for Americans to water their lawns every week. That's enough to give every person in the world a shower for four days in a row!
- A thermostat contains 3 grams of mercury, which is enough to contaminate 6000 2-pound northern pike.
- By the time a baby born today in the US reaches age 75, they will have produced 52 tons of garbage, consumed 43 million gallons of water and used 3375 barrels of oil.
- Hot water will make clearer ice cubes than cold water, but cold water will make quicker ice cubes.

(From Freshwater Foundation newsletter, September, 1996)



LYME, HGE and BABESIOSIS

Spring means getting the leaves raked, fallen branches picked up, and all the more enjoyable outdoor activities that go with owning lake shore property. It also means the beginning of the Deer Tick Season.

By now almost everyone is familiar with the tick-borne disease called LYME. We're aware of the symptoms of achy joints, fever, headaches, and the bull's-eye-shaped rash, and have been alerted to get to a doctor immediately. What if you have all the symptoms except the rash? Do you ignore it and think you must just be working those muscles too much? Maybe yes, if you haven't done anything all winter except watch TV, maybe not. The Deer Tick lives all winter.

There are two other tick-borne diseases of which we in Minnesota should be aware of which have very much the same symptoms except for the rash which are carried by the deer tick.

Human Granulocytic Ehrlichiosis or more easily pronounced HGE, is emerging as a very dangerous disease. It has killed four persons among the roughly 150 diagnosed with the illness since it was identified in 1994. While not wide spread, it is more dangerous because it is not easily identified, and can be fatal if not treated immediately. Another LYME-like disease called Babesiosis has stricken 250 Americans, and killed at least 10. These are not yet recognized as diseases which should be reported to authorities, so researchers think dozens of cases have gone unreported. To learn more, call the Lyme Disease Foundation: 1-800-886-LYME.



THE FASCINATING HUMMINGBIRD

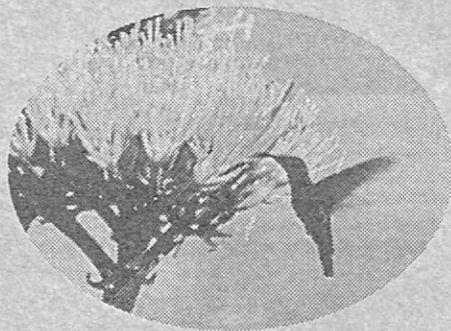
Hummingbirds are fascinating birds which continue to amaze people with their size, stamina and enormous appetites. They get their name from the humming sound of the rapidly beating wings. Although they are found only in North and South America, these birds have forever captured peoples imagination. Ancient Aztecs wore floor-length ceremonial cloaks made of hummingbird plumage. In the early 1800s, thousands of dried hummingbird skins were shipped to Europe to decorate hats and jewelry. There are still some places in Mexico where they are dried and sold to people who believe that hummingbirds possess magical powers of love.

There are about 14 different species of hummers. The one found in our area is the Ruby-throated hummingbird which is usually between 3-4 inches long. It is the only hummer found east of the Mississippi.

The male has a radiant ruby throat and a head with a green crown, is black on the sides and has a tiny white spot behind the eyes. The back is metallic green and it has a distinctively forked brownish-black tail with a whitish-gray underside. The female is similar but has a dull white throat and a white tipped rounded tail.

Although one of the smallest of the hummers, it stores up enough fat to successfully make a non-stop 500 mile migration across the Gulf of Mexico. Listen for their squeaking voices as they fly.

Hummingbird feathers have two very different ways of producing color. One is through the actual pigment of the feather and the other is what is called "structural color", the iridescence reflecting off the facets of the feather itself. This feature is what causes a hummers throat area) to glitter when you are looking at the bird head on and to become duller when seeing the bird from another angle. The brilliance and elegance of hummingbird plumage resembles precious gems. Hummers have an incredibly high energy output, requiring half of their



weight in sugar daily. It has been estimated that a man, who normally eats about 2 1/2 pounds of food a day, would have to eat more than double his weight in potatoes daily to keep up with a hummer! A hummer's daytime temperature is about 105 degrees, usually dropping to near 70 degrees at night. Their resting heartbeat (about 500 beats per minute) more than doubles when excited. A quiet hummer breathes about 250 breaths per minute, 10 times that off a pigeon.

Designed to insert into tubular flowers, hummer bills are usually long, straight and dull black. Until recently hummers were thought to suck nectar. Actually it has been found that their extremely long tongues lick the nectar (about 13 licks per second) as capillary action draws it into the tongue.

Their lifestyle is always "on the edge". Hummers have no down feathers to keep them warm even though they do have more feathers for their surface area than larger birds. They do have some ways of conserving energy, the most dramatic is a condition called torpidity. In this condition the birds fluff out their feathers to allow excess heat to escape, rapidly lower body temperature and metabolic rate. This hypothermic state is a last resort to stay alive during all or part of a cold night. They must seek shelter in order to conserve every bit of heat possible in cold weather.

They can fly upwards, forward, backwards, sideways, upside-down and hover. The joint where the wing is attached to the body can rotate 180 degrees. Most hummingbird bones are porous, but some, like wing and leg bones are hollow. Extremely long "hand bones" support the large primary feathers and enable rapid wing strokes while preventing the wings from

bending. They almost fly with their hands.

After the female has her nest started, she goes looking for a mate. She is attracted by the male aerial displays of spectacular swoops, climbs, dives and intricate patterns in combination with specific vocalizations. Females have been known to chose a mate of another species, resulting in hybrid hummers.

Finding a hummingbird nest is like a treasure hunt. The first clue is to follow the flight of a female hummer. These hideaways can be found on the forks of tree branches, hanging from ledges, or clinging to rocks. The nest is cup or cone shaped about 2" across. It's exterior is bits of lichen or bark, while downy feathers, moss, lichens, leaves and soft plant materials line the inside of this home, held together with spider webs. The female forms the nest to make a tight seal with her body. Strong and waterproof, nests usually take from one day to 2 weeks to build and the female may continue to add to the nest after her eggs are laid. Most females lay 2 white eggs, each about the size of a jelly bean. Baby hummers hatch in about 15-22 days. After the baby has emerged from the egg, the mother disposes of any broken shells so as not to attract predators. The babies essentially have no feathers, are blind and have only tiny bills so they need constant care. Baby food consists of regurgitated nectar and insects, skillfully poked down their throats by mom. Their nest is always tidy, they are toilet trained to go over the nest edge. Within 8-12 days pin feathers have grown in. Most fledglings leave the nest in about 21 days. Their first flight is usually successful, however, landings take more practice. A hummer may live 10 years.

Hummingbirds do not live on nectar alone. They devour a fair number of insects as well, nibbling them from the inside of flowers, around plants and trees, nabbing them in midair, or even stealing them from spider webs. They like "fast food" and a feeder is an easy way to attract them to your yard.

(Information from various pamphlets and books)



BUGS BITE LOOSTRIFE

Biologists hope the root-boring weevil will take a big bite out of Minnesota's purple loosestrife problem. It's larvae attack the plant's root tissue and devour it within weeks. Also leaf eating species feed on the plant's leaf tissue, defoliating the plant and reducing its seed product. The flower eating species help decrease the reproduction of the plants easily spread seeds. Released into large stands of loosestrife, the weevils can wipe out most plants in several years. And that has given the DNR hope that they can finally control purple loosestrife, an exotic plant which destroys fish and wildlife habitat by crowding out native wetland vegetation.

Loosestrife was imported in the early 1800's from Europe as a medicinal herb, and spread westward. Many gardeners liked the tall hardy perennial. However, in the US it is, and was, a plant without predators.

It has infested about 38,000 acres of the state's wetlands, low-lying areas and lakeshores. It clogs out plants used by spawning northern pike, clogs drainage and roadside ditches, and can displace wild rice in northern lakes. Pesticides, cutting and even burning in winter have done little to stop the plant's spread. Now there is hope that three insect types can help control the spread of loosestrife.

Insects were screened in Europe as potential biological control in the late 1980's. In 1992, after the service approved species for release, the DNR released three insects species native to Germany. Luke Skinner, coordinator of DNR Loosestrife Program says that the agency will rear 50,000 insects in laboratories this year and start raising others at an outdoor side near Brainerd. Rearing these insects outdoors is far cheaper than in laboratories and produces hardier insects, said Skinner.

In answer to public concern that the insects will start munching on crops or native plants when they finish with purple loosestrife are unfounded, according to Skinner. He says the insects selected for the Minnesota program eat purple loosestrife and only purple loosestrife. "Their populations will go down as soon as the loosestrife goes down and bounce back up if loosestrife comes back." Insects used have been approved for biocontrol by both the USDA and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

It will take at least five to seven years before there are enough insects at any site to significantly reduce the abundance of purple loosestrife. Between now and then, the DNR will work to distribute the weevils and beetles. As for the insects, Skinner says he's hoping they stay hungry.

(Information from Fish & Wildlife Today, Summer, 1996)

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

The Septic Systems bill HF2112 and SF1987. One provision of the bill creates a loan program for an individual sewage treatment system or water well. The program will be available to property owners for site evaluation, design, installation, repair or replacement of an individual sewage treatment system or sealing or replacement of a well. The goal of this legislation is to reduce or eliminate water pollution.

The Harmful Exotic Species bill HF2379, SF 2503. This bill modifies and expands the rulemaking authority of the DNR commissioner to regulate, manage and assess penalties regarding harmful exotic species of aquatic plants. It also establishes a statewide program to prevent and curb the spread of them. The two main exotic plant species targeted are purple loosestrife and Eurasian water milfoil.

The Tax Omnibus Bill HF 2102. The bill calls for decreasing the class rate on the first \$72,000 market value of seasonal residential recreational property. For taxes paid in 1997 it reduces the rate from 1.9% to 1.75%. For taxes in 1998 and thereafter, the rate is reduced to 1.5%. No class rate changes are made to the market value over \$72,000.

(Information from Lakeside Minnesota, Minnesota Lakes Association magazine, Summer, 1996)





NOTES FROM THE BOATHOUSE

By Kirk Smith

LAND O' LAKES MARINE

Boat Prep Time (alias spring) is upon us and once again we look forward to Boating season (A.K.A. summer). Boating, like many things in life, returns to us (with good dividends) what we invest in it and, the return from a good spring boat prep can give a much more trouble free boating season. For many, spring prep can be a daunting prospect so we have endeavored to compile a list of tips (in outline form) which we hope will contain some useful info for the novice and seasoned boater alike.

BATTERIES:

1. Great caution must be exercised when dealing with marine batteries as the fluid in them is very caustic and the fumes created during charging are highly explosive.
2. Due to the fact that these batteries are used so little, we see the average marine battery lasting 3 - 4 years.
3. If the fluid level in the battery cells becomes low, refill with only bottled, distilled water available at any grocery or convenience store.
4. Terminals must be dry and corrosion free. If necessary, terminals can be cleaned with a mixture of baking soda and water. Dry the top of the battery after cleaning with a disposable towel, being careful to avoid contact with fluid by skin or clothing.
5. Charge batteries in well ventilated space, at the slowest possible rate to avoid boiling or overheating.
6. Do not use deep cycle batteries for starting boat engines of any size. They can cause premature failure of the starting system components.
7. Always dispose of your old batteries at your marine dealer. There is no charge for this service and allows them to be recycled, thus protecting the environment.
8. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your marine batteries, see your dealer for professional advice and service.

FUEL:

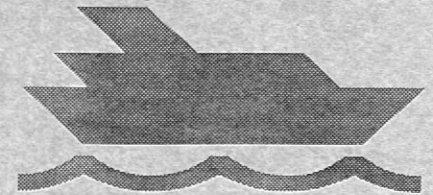
1. When purchasing outboard oil for your 2 cycle engine, always attempt to purchase oil manufactured for your specific brand and always use oil which carries the new TCW-3 rating. This oil contains additives which will significantly extend the life of your motor.
2. Outboard and inboard/outboard engines produced in the last 10 years will tolerate unleaded fuels which contain up to 10% ethanol. Try to avoid fuels containing methanol (5% max). Preferred fuel for most recreational engines, (including saws, mowers, etc...) is the highest octane fuel available. See your dealer for recommendations on older engines.
3. Fuel which has been contaminated by water, gone bad by long unstabilized storage, etc...can be disposed of at many dealerships for a small fee. NEVER dump old fuel on the ground! One gallon of gasoline can contaminate up to one million gallons of ground water!!
4. In recent years we have seen an increase in the number of incidents of water in fuel systems. Part of this can be attributed to the alcohol in our fuel which has an affinity for water but, the majority of the water present in these incidents can be attributed to such mechanical causes as: bad gaskets on fuel gauges or gas caps, improper hull vent positioning, etc...
5. Many marine dealerships will offer you a free inspection of your fuel system by appointment.
6. Add-on fuel/water separating units are available for most I/O and outboard boats. Change filter element every fall.
7. Fuel dryer modules are available which mount on outboard or I/O fuel caps (minimal cost) which will absorb stray amounts of water in the fuel tank and then can be dried and reused.
8. If the fuel hose and bulb assembly on your outboard had become either very stiff and rigid or very spongy, replace it immediately.
9. Many people now use fuel stabilizers in every tank of fuel to avoid the possibility of fuel deterioration during periods of disuse.

GEARLUBE & LOWER UNITS:

1. Even if you refilled your sterndrive or outboard gearcase (lower unit) in the fall, always check the gearlube level before first use of the season. It is common for an air bubble to form in the gearcase during refilling which can lead you to believe it is completely full but, over winter this bubble can rise, lowering gearlube level, thus exposing critical components.
2. Many service stations and marine dealerships will accept (at no charge) any drain oil you wish to drop off for recycling.
3. Never start or even crank your sterndrive or outboard out of the water or without the use of a flush cuff. Water pump impellers, which pump cooling water to your engine, are lubricated by the water they pump and even a few seconds of dry operation can cause serious damage to the impeller, leading to engine failure.
4. Water pump impellers should be inspected every 5 years.

Hopefully this information has been helpful. Remember, better safe than sorry. If any boat operation or maintenance questions arise, call your marine dealership for courteous, professional advice.

Boat Safely
Happy Landings



**DNR NEWS -FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For more information, contact Kim Elverum, DNR Boat & Water Safety, (612) 296-0905

MOTORBOAT AGE LAW CHANGED JANUARY 1

Beginning January 1, a new law went into effect that further restricts the operation of motorboats by children. The law, which was enacted in response to the death of 10-year-old Aaron Sahli in June of 1995, placed some additional age restriction into effect on May 1, 1996, and the remainder on January 1, 1997.

As of January 1, three changes to the existing operator age law occur:

- * the horsepower at which an accompanying adult or operator's permit is required is lowered from more than 30 horsepower, to more than 25 horsepower;
- * the accompanying adult on board must now be at least 21 years of age instead of 18 (except on personal watercraft where it remains 18, and be in reach of the controls;
- * for purposes of the boating while intoxicated law, both youthful operator and the accompanying adult are considered to be in physical control of the motorboat.

The chart below summarizes Minnesota's Motorboat Age Laws as of January 1, 1997:

TYPE of CRAFT and AGE RESTRICTIONS - January 1, 1997 and AFTER
All Motorboats - except personal watercraft

Less than 12 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 25 hp or less - no restrictions, * more than 25 - 75 hp - must have someone at least 21 on board in reach of controls, * over 75 hp - cannot operate, even with adult on board
12 - 17 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 25 hp or less - no restrictions * over 25 hp - must either have: * a watercraft operator's permit, or * someone, at least 21, on board in reach of controls

Personal Watercraft - (Jet Skis etc). regardless of hp

Less than 13 years old Cannot operate, even with adult on board

13 years old Must either have:

- * someone at least 18 on board, or
- * a watercraft operator's permit and be in unaided visual contact by someone at least 18

14 - 17 years old Must either have:

- * a water craft operator's permit, or
- * have someone at least 18 on board

For more information about changes in the age laws, or for a copy of the watercraft operator's permit education packet for 12-to-17-year-olds, call the DNR's Boat and Water Safety Section during normal business hours at 296-3336 in the Twin Cities metro area, or call toll free 1-800-766-6000 in Greater Minnesota.

ITASCA PARK

Just a short drive west from Lake Washburn is Itasca State Park, the birthplace of the Mississippi River. The park is located 20 miles north of Park Rapids or 30 miles south of Bemidji on Highway 71. A collection of 100 lakes and ponds and miles of forest trails lie within the park's boundaries.

Established in 1891 to preserve stands of virgin pine and to protect the basin around the Mississippi's source, this 32,000 acre park has become a famous natural and cultural landmark in North America.

Swimming, hiking, and canoeing are available at the park amidst rare orchids, carnivorous plants, white-tailed deer, beavers, porcupines and more than 100 species of birds. Cross country skiing is also featured.

Some must see/do things include:

Peacepipe Vista This site provides a wide-angle view of Lake Itasca and is a favorite place to watch sunsets, take pictures and listen to evening loon music.

Preacher's Grove The seeds that produced these fire-scarred red pines began growing after a major forest fire swept the region in 1714. Repeated ground fires, a natural occurrence in pre-settlement times, left scars on the trunks of many of the 250 year old trees. The stand of trees was named for a religious convention that once camped there.

Mississippi Headwaters Here the mighty river begins its run to the Gulf of Mexico. Walking across the river at this point is a must. A visit to the interpretative center will give an interesting background on the park.

Wilderness Drive A one way, heading west from headquarters, this narrow and curvy road passes by the "world's largest pine tree" and other sites of interest.

Cabins and camping are available in the park. For more information contact the parks administrative office, 218-266-3942.



LAKE WASHBURN WATER LEVELS

Water levels have been recorded for Lake Washburn since 1937. Since then there have been 699 recorded levels. These data have been used by water planners, zoning officials and the Department of Natural Resources to make sound like management decisions.

The highest level ever recorded was quite recent - on July 17, 1993 at 1317.57 feet above sea level. The lowest was on December 5, 1939 at 1314.85 feet.

Levels in 1996 showed a steady downward trend until mid year when there was a short period of resurgence until the fall when it continued the downward trend. It did not quite reach the low level of the previous year.



The last recorded reading was on 9/27/96 at 1316.37 feet. The run out level at the dam is 1315.93 feet. Ordinary high water level is at 1315.93 feet.



L a k e W a s h b u r n A s s o c i a t i o n

M E M B E R S H I P

Name: _____

Permanent Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Lake Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Fire#: _____

I am interested in participating as marked:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board Position | <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning/Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Highway Cleanup | <input type="checkbox"/> Boat Monitoring | <input type="checkbox"/> Bouy Markers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nominating Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Auditing Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Finance |

Yearly Membership Donation: \$10.00 (Jan. 1-Dec. 31) New Renewal

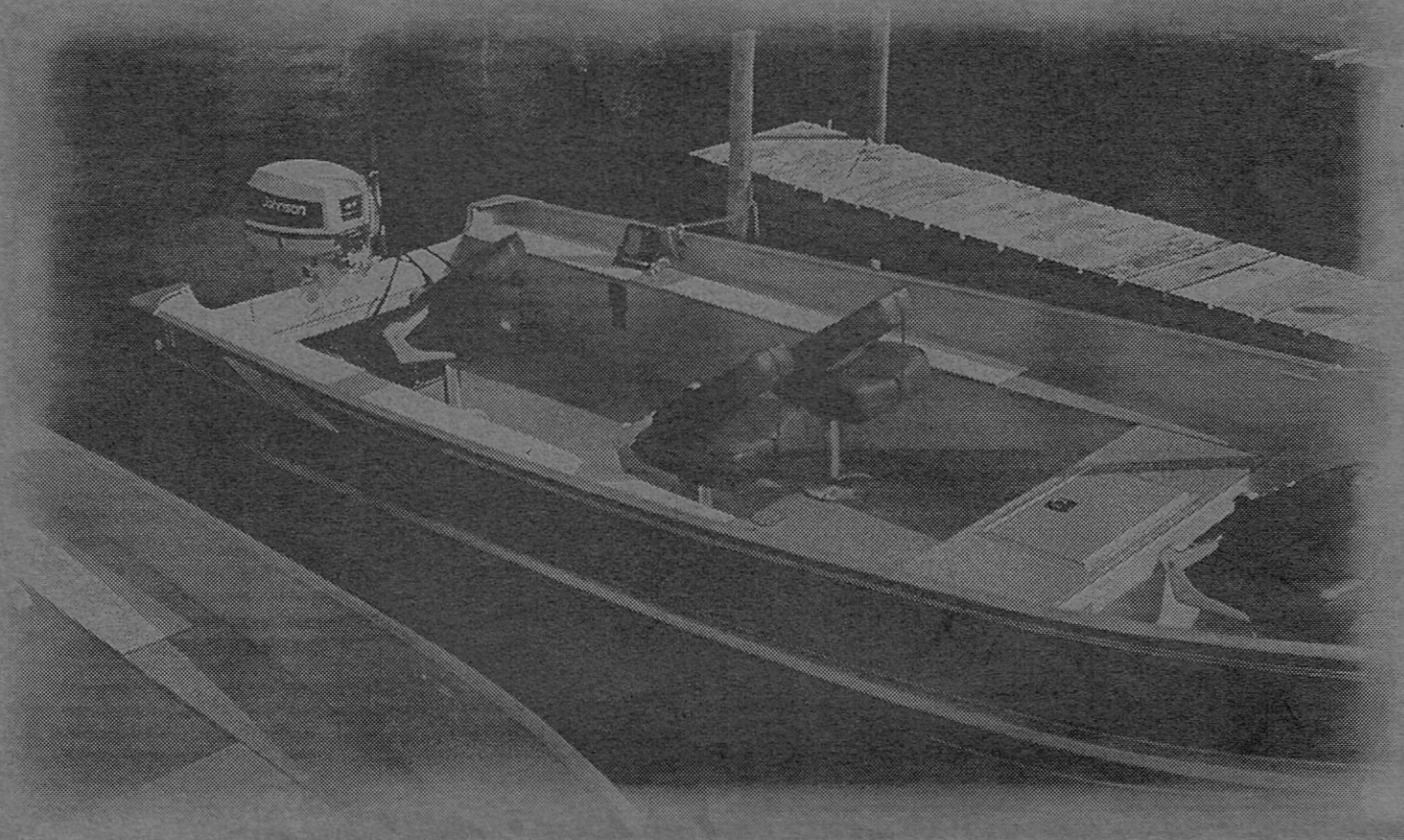
Additional Donation (amount): _____

- | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ecological Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrolab | <input type="checkbox"/> General Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|

Mail completed form to:

Lake Washburn Association
Box 26
Outing, MN 56662

Ready!



Lake Washburn Association
NEWSLETTER

BOX 26, OUTING, MN 56662

