



Lake Washburn Association NEWSLETTER

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

Summer Edition 2003

Inside:

Page 2

From the President
Board Members

Page 3

Protecting Our Waters

Page 4

Share My Journey as a Shoreland
Volunteer by Dan Schultz

Page 5

Bonfires Can Harm Lakes
Lead Tackle Swap

Page 6

DNR Fish Consumption Report
PWC Safety Rules

Page 7

Boating Litter & Fish Waste Facts

Page 8

Wild Rice - An Ecological Treasure
by Richard D. Nelles

Page 9

Notes from the Boathouse
by Kirk Smith

Page 10

Treasurer's Report
LWA Website & Email Address

Back Page

Summer Canister Hours

Look for other articles on:

Eagle Facts

State Loon Watch Survey Records

Lake Reflections

Make a Secchi Disk

June 14th General Meeting

**DON'T FORGET THE ANNUAL
MEETING & ICE CREAM
SOCIAL ON AUGUST 9TH!**

Soar With The Eagles



Photo © Hope Rutledge

There's an old fable that talks about a man who found an eagle's egg and put it in a nest of a barnyard hen. The eagle hatched with the brood of chicks and grew up with them. All his life, the eagle did what the barnyard chicks did, thinking he was a barnyard chicken.

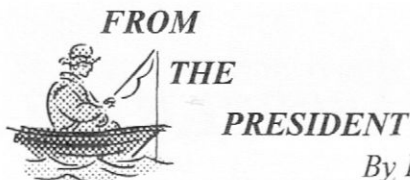
He scratched the earth for worms and insects. He clucked and cackled. And he would thrash his wings and fly a few feet in the air.

Years passed and the eagle grew very old. One day he saw a magnificent bird above him in the cloudless sky. It glided in graceful majesty among powerful wind currents, with scarcely a beat of its strong golden wings. The old eagle looked up in awe. "Who's that?" he asked. "That's the eagle, king of birds," said his neighbor. "He belongs to the sky. We belong to the earth-- we're chickens."

So, the eagle lived and died a chicken, for that's what he thought he was.

How sad when we who are children of the King live as chickens when we could fly with the eagles.

~Anonymous~



It was great to see so many people at our June meeting. Your enthusiasm was tremendous! We have never had so many people volunteer to help out! Those of you who were there, I hope you spread the word to those you know who didn't attend. We need everyone involved so we can be the most effective association possible. Hope to see you August 9th at our annual meeting and ice cream social. . . if you're not there, you won't have a chance to win a door prize!

Stewardship is a term we hear bantered around, but what does it really mean? According to the American College Dictionary, it means one who manages another's property; one who administers anything as an agent of another or others. Webster says it is the administration. . . of goods or duties entrusted to one's care; the individual's responsibility. . . for sharing systematically and proportionally one's time, talent, and material possessions for the benefit of all mankind; the careful responsible management of something. . . entrusted to one.

What does this mean to us who cherish Lake Washburn? First of all we do not "own" Lake Washburn - the State of Minnesota does. Since we are property owners on or near the lake we are the primary people entrusted with the responsibility of caring for the lake. When sharing time, talent, and material possessions you are learning what it takes to be a responsible landowner. Do you read information in the Newsletter? Do you belong to LWA? Do you belong to MLA? Do you go to LWA meetings? Do you take classes to learn how lakes function? Do you listen to people willing to do those things?

We all have a vested interest in the quality of water in Lake Washburn. Studies done in Maine and now duplicated in Minnesota, show property values are influenced by water quality.

In the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's "A Citizens Guide to Lake Protection", they define lake stewardship:

"Lake stewardship really is an attitude-it is the first important step in protecting a lake. Stewardship reflects an understanding that what we do on land and in the water affects the lake.

Stewardship centers on thoughtful consideration of the intricate lake ecosystem and the interdependence between the lake and its surrounding watershed. It takes into account the need to better balance our lives and lifestyles with the needs of our lakes.

In short, it is a recognition that lakes are vulnerable-that in order to make them thrive, we, both individually and collectively, must assume responsibility for their care."

The questions I pose to you are these: Will you be willing to be a steward of Lake Washburn? Will Lake Washburn be better because you were a resident here?

**PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE
FOR HIGHWAY 48 CLEANUP.**



2003 LAKE WASHBURN ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

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IMPORTANT DATES

Annual General Meeting & Ice Cream Social

Saturday, August 9 5:00 PM
(Meeting at 5:00 followed by
the Ice Cream Social)

Board Meetings

Saturday, July 12 8:00 AM
Saturday, August 9 8:00 AM
Saturday, September 13 8:00 AM

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

Highway 48 Cleanup

(Meet at Clinton Converse Camp Ground)
Saturday, September 6 9:00 AM

MINNESOTA VOLUNTEER LOON SURVEY RECORDS



Did you know that Lake Washburn participates in the state Loon Watch Program? Ted Johnson has found five nesting areas. He is also looking into the possibility of getting more loon nesting platforms. Please contact Ted (Cabin: 792-5958 or Home: 952-285-5281) with any nesting areas you have found or if you have any questions.

Here is the history of our loons from 1980-2002:

YEAR	E or P*	NESTING	# PAIR	ADULTS	CHICKS	REPORTER
2002	E	Yes	3	8	4	Nancy Toth
2002	E	Yes	7	14	8	Jane Gaskill
2001	E	Yes	2	6	4	Nancy Toth
2000	P	Yes	2	8	2	Nancy Toth
1999	P	No	0	0	0	Nancy Toth
1998	E	Yes	2	7	4	Nancy Toth
1997	E	Yes	3	10	2	Nancy Toth
1995	E	Yes	2	4	2	Nancy Toth
1994	P	Yes	1	2	?	Nancy Toth
1993	P	No	0	1	0	Nancy Toth
1992	P	No	0	0	0	Nancy Toth
1991	P	Yes	1	8	1	Nancy Toth
1990	P	No	0	2	0	Nancy Toth
1989	P	No	0	5	0	Nancy Toth
1988	E	Yes	3	6	3	DNR Fisheries
1988	P	Yes	1	6	1	Nancy Toth
1984	P	Yes	1	2	2	Rollie Hirman
1983	P	Yes	2	4	1	Rollie Hirman
1982	P	?	0	0	0	Mildred Stohl
1982	E	?	1	3	0	Rollie Hirman
1981	E	?	1	3	0	Mildred Stohl
1980	P	Yes	1	2	1	DNR - Brainerd
1980	P	?	0	1	0	Mildred Stohl

* Entire lake or Part of lake

PROTECTING OUR WATERS

By Dan Schultz

The Spring 2003 Newsletter presented the "10 Best Management Practices for Lake Protection and Enjoyment" taken from the Minnesota Lakes Association website.

The University of Minnesota Extension Service has also published a series of 18 Shoreland Best Management Practices in greater detail (117 pages). Any part of the series or the whole series can be made available to you via e-mail, the Internet or in hard copy form from your Lakeshore Volunteers.

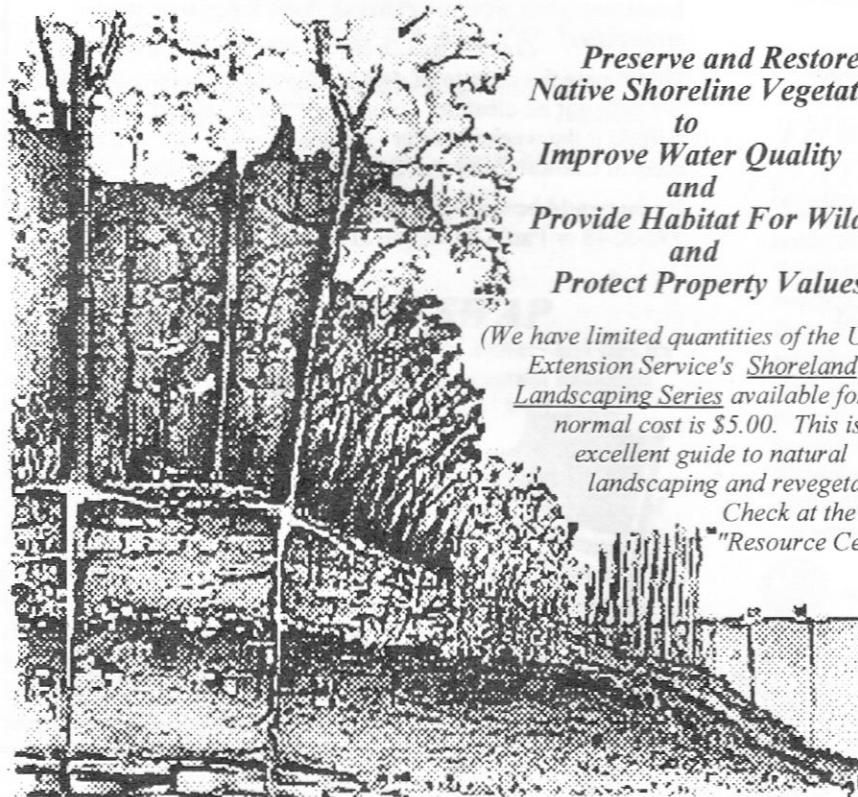
The series includes:

1. Understanding Shoreland Best Management Practices
2. Maintaining Your Shoreland Septic System
3. Installing a Shoreland Septic System
4. Ensuring a Safe Water Supply
5. Limiting Impact of Recreation on Water Quality
6. Developing Shoreland Landscapes and Construction Activities
7. Stabilizing Your Shoreline to Prevent Erosion
8. Minimizing Runoff from Shoreland Property
9. Caring for Shoreland Lawns and Gardens
10. Managing Your Shoreland Woodlot
11. Valuing Your Shoreland Trees
12. Preserving Wetlands
13. Managing Crops and Animals Near Shorelands
14. Reducing the Use of Hazardous Household Products
15. Preventing the Introduction of Exotic Species
16. Assessing Information Protect Water Quality
17. Shoreland Stewardship Scorecard
18. Conserving Water

The information provided in this series is very helpful in understanding regulations that may apply, costs, and they provide sources for additional information.

Contact me if you have any questions about this series or if you wish make requests for series materials.

Dan Schultz – dschultz@mfire.com or 612-810-1405



*Preserve and Restore
Native Shoreline Vegetation
to
Improve Water Quality
and
Provide Habitat For Wildlife
and
Protect Property Values*

(We have limited quantities of the U of M Extension Service's Shoreland Landscaping Series available for \$2.50 - normal cost is \$5.00. This is an excellent guide to natural landscaping and revegetation. Check at the "Resource Center".)

SHARE IN MY JOURNEY AS A "SHORELAND VOLUNTEER"

By Dan Schultz

The magnificent calls of the loon are exchanged around the lake. The eagles have taken flight numerous times as they repair their nest (talons clutching grasses and twigs). Trees are alive with songs, calls and chirps of countless birds, wood ducks zoom through the shoreline trees with what seems to be reckless abandon (maybe a game of tag?). The suns golden rays glistens off the gentle ripples of the lake waters like diamonds. The aromas of the warming earth and the fresh scents of pine fill the air. It takes my breath away and I stand in awe when I have been witness to the miracles Mother Nature presents to us. It humbles me as I realize I'm only a guest for a brief moment in time at the feet of her majestic beauty and power.

As this cool fresh May early morning greets me, I ponder the journey and responsibilities that lie before me as a steward of the paradise we call Lake Washburn. My family is new to the lake and we have learned some of the basics (how to put docks and boat lifts in and take them out, septic systems, winter routines, etc.), but we have so much more to learn to insure we are part of a long term solution and not a short term problem regarding protecting and/or improving our lake and the surrounding lake community.

I joined our lake association last year and when they were looking for members to become "Shoreland Volunteers", I thought this would be a great way to learn more about lakes through training workshops and other resources. I was very pleased to find out some Lake Washburn veterans (Ron and Nancy Reich) also volunteered in this capacity. Together we attended our first workshop in Grand Rapids at the end of April.

So what is a Shoreland Volunteer?

A Shoreland Volunteer is someone who wants to learn and share knowledge with his or her neighbors and Lake Community. We are someone who wants to work in a positive, educational and non-judgmental manner. Someone who wants to help protect lakes, rivers, and is willing to ask questions. Someone who is willing to lead and encourage action for local projects or programs.

A few of our responsibilities to you and our lake community include:

- Attend ongoing training workshops.
- Continue to maintain and share our resource notebook
- Serve as a resource and link between neighbors and community
- Be a role model – demonstrate sound shoreland management practices
- Work as a team to set goals for our lake

Look for the three of us to contribute articles to the newsletter, work with our board, and attend general meetings to keep you informed on available resources and practices that can make a difference in protecting and improving Lake Washburn. Please call or write Ron, Nancy or myself with questions, comments and recommendations regarding Shoreland Management and Lake Protection.

Ron & Nancy Reich: rreich@usfamily.net or 952-888-7813

Dan Schultz: dschultz@mfire.com or 612-810-1405

THANKS TO OUR



BOAT MONITORING

Two of the weekends we monitor the boat landing are past. We were able to inspect boats entering Lake Washburn for toxic weeds because of the dedicated volunteers who accepted the call to help. I would like to thank the following:

Fishing Opener: Don Peterson (who took the scheduling leadership in my absence), John Rask, George Fortmeyer, Chuck Johnson, Rod McKinley, Bob Matherne, John Huston, Marv Hildreth, and Dave Snesrud

Memorial Weekend: Wayne Lindbom, Don Peterson, Ted Johnson, and Skip Hovind

We have the next weekend - July 4th - coming up soon. We need more help. Could you help with a two-hour shift? It's easy and fun! You get the chance to meet other lake residents and visitors.

Thanks again to those who helped, and please call me at 792-5528 if you can help over the July 4th holiday.

Rollie Hirman, Boat Monitoring Chairman

HIGHWAY 48 CLEANUP

A **BIG THANKS** to those of you who helped with the cleanup on May 24th. Your efforts were greatly appreciated.

REMEMBER: Volunteers are not paid - not because you are worthless, but because you are priceless!

Please note the change of date for the next scheduled pickup. We will not be cleaning up on labor day weekend. Instead we will do it the weekend after - September 6th. We will again meet at Clinton Converse Campground at 9:00 a.m.

If you would be willing to help, please call Jim Lindahl at 792-5348 or Paul Cartwright at 792-5428.



OUTING FIREWORKS

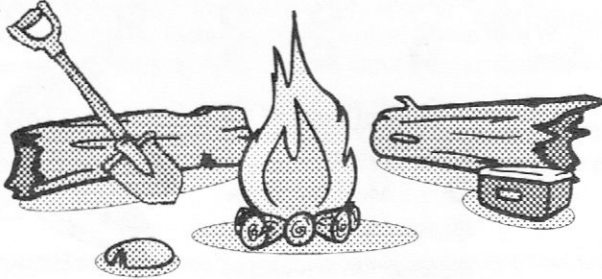
Saturday, July 5th
at Dusk

BONFIRES CAN HARM LAKES

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, according to University of Idaho researchers. Or better yet, consider moving your fire pit inland, far away from the shore.

Rains, winds, and other natural happenings carry the ash into the water. An average bonfire containing 22 pounds of firewood produces enough phosphorous to raise the phosphorous level 1 part per billion in 350,000 gallons of lake water - a significant amount.

Phosphorous stimulates an over growth of algae and aquatic plants. As the algae and plants die and decompose they accumulate on the lake bottom as muck. After several generations the lake may more closely resemble a marsh or a bog.



REMEMBER: Fire pits should never be placed in the "Shore Impact Zone"- one-half of the required building setback. The required building setback on Washburn is 75 feet. That means your fire pit should not be within 37-1/2 feet of the shore!

SUPPORT CATCH-and-RELEASE

Just one released 20-inch walleye is equal to 1,000 stocked fingerlings.

(From the Lake Ada "Dockpost" - April 2003)

LEAD TACKLE SWAP

Minnesota anglers can swap their old lead sinkers and jigs for new non-lead tackle as part of a statewide program launched the week of June 2nd, to reduce the amount of lead tackle being lost in lakes.

In time for the 2003 fishing opener, Minnesota Lakes Association hosted an exchange in which nearly 20 pounds of lead tackle were turned in for recycling!

Cabela's "Spring 2002 Master Catalog" had this to say about lead: "As with non-toxic shot, steel has been found to be an economical alternative to lead and in the case of sinkers for fishing, it actually has proved to outperform lead due to its hardness and resistance to deformation. They retain their shape, have clean chamfered holes that will not cut line and outperform lead in almost all fishing situations."

SWAP continued on page 9

LAKE REFLECTIONS

By Judy Matherne

Outhouses are a dying breed, nearly extinct.

Thank goodness!

My memories of outhouses at various family cabins have not been fond ones. There was the two-seater model at my grandfather's cabin. My mother said I was terrified of falling in and would only use a chamber pot inside the cabin. Poor Mom!

Later, my folks had a place in Wisconsin, with only an outhouse - much to my dismay. Now, not only did we have to go outside, but we had to cross the bridge over the creek. Especially tricky in the dark of night in the woods! Even though it was carpeted and painted, it still wasn't indoors. I clearly remember one very hot Fourth of July when I spent most of the day in the outhouse with our son. He was 2 1/2, in potty-training, and fascinated with the outhouse. He loved it! In fact, after that day, I said, "You're trained-- the outhouse did it!" Perhaps they are good for something??

However, there are people who actually like outhouses. I have a friend who collects outhouse memorabilia. At their cabin, she has outhouse pictures, puzzles, books, cards, etc. When they remodeled their place, she couldn't bear to part with the outhouse, so they creatively turned it into an outdoor bathroom with modern plumbing.

Different strokes for different folks, as they say. We all have our likes and dislikes. For me, however, I say good riddance to the outhouses. Although, I may take that back if our septic system fails -- or freezes, as many did last winter.

If you have a special memory or anecdote about life at the lake, please send it to Judy Matherne via e-mail:

matherne@usfamily.net

or regular mail: 5603 Fehr's Drive NE, Remer, MN 56672

THE EAGLE AS OUR NATIONAL EMBLEM

The bald eagle was chosen as our national emblem on June 20, 1782.

While the eagle has been officially recognized as America's national bird, there have been those who felt the bird was the wrong choice. Ben Franklin thought the eagle was "a bird of bad moral character, and did not get his living honestly" because it takes food from "diligent" birds that are "bearing it (a fish) to its nest for the support of his mate and young ones". If it were up to Ben Franklin, we would have had a turkey for our national emblem!



No more gas at Duttons'

How many times have you "run over" to Barb & Howard's to get gas? You're going to have to start planning ahead, because effective July 1st, Barb & Howard will no longer be in the gas business.



MAKE A SECCHI DISK

By Dan Schultz

Make a Secchi disk and use it to measure the transparency of your lake. What a great summer science project for your children or grandchildren.

Volunteers have been taking Secchi readings on Lake Washburn for years (see the DNR web site for a history of the readings). What a wonderful way to expose our youth to Limnology – the scientific study of physical, chemical, and biological conditions in freshwater. When taking the readings, share with your youth the ways human activities (good and bad) can influence the clarity of the water. Good lake stewardship has to be taught. If you need additional materials and resources to support your project, contact your Shoreland Volunteer for support.

How to make a Secchi disk:

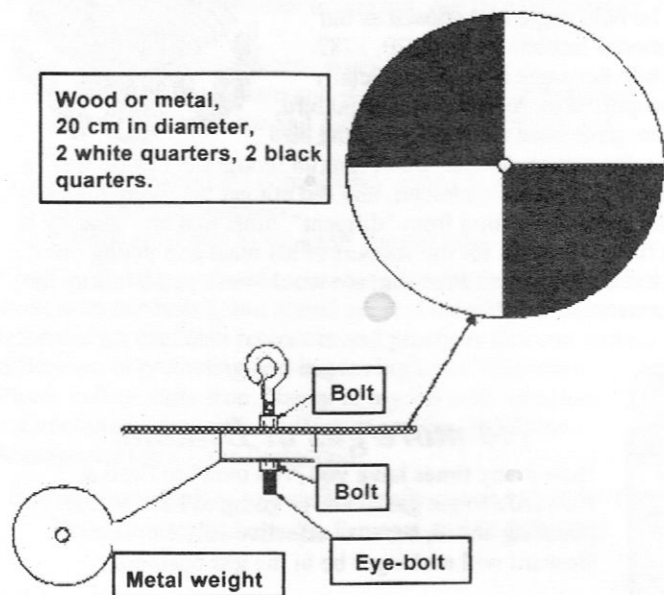
If the disk is made of wood or Plexiglas, add a weight to the bottom so that the disk will go down in a straight line. It is also necessary, sometimes, to add a weight to a disk made out of metal, if the metal is too light. Divide the disk into 4 quarters. Two should be white and two should be black to facilitate the readings. Finally, attach a good string at least 25 feet in length with markers at every foot.

How to measure the transparency:

Readings. To obtain a reading, lower the disk into the water until it disappears. Take a reading from the rope and make a note of it. Lower the disk even deeper and bring it back up until it reappears and take another reading. Repeat this operation 3 times and take the average of the readings. All readings should be taken on the shaded side of the boat.

Number of measures per season. It is highly recommended that readings be taken 4 times, spaced out during the period from the middle of July to the middle of August. Never before, and never after that period! Secchi readings as well as temperature and oxygen concentration readings must be taken during that critical period of time. Moreover, all Secchi readings must be taken from the same place on the lake, the place where temperature and oxygen measurements are taken.

Make a chart of your measurements over the summer and from year to year.



MN DNR FISH CONSUMPTION REPORT FOR LAKE WASHBURN

Follow these guidelines because of the mercury levels in the fish:

Meal Advice for Pregnant Women, Women Who May Become Pregnant and Children Under Age 15

Species	less than 15"	15" to 20"	20" to 25"	25" to 30"	greater than 30"
Northern Pike	★	●	●	●	●
Walleye	●	●	●		

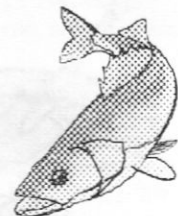
Meal Advice for the General Population

Species	less than 15"	15" to 20"	20" to 25"	25" to 30"	greater than 30"
Northern Pike	○	★	★	★	★
Walleye	★	★	●		

Symbol Key

- = Unlimited
- ★ = 1 Meal Per Week
- = 1 Meal Per Month

(Source: DNR Website)



PERSONAL WATERCRAFT RULES

REMBER TO:

- Wear a USCG approved life jacket.
- Travel at slow no-wake speed (5 MPH or less) within 150 feet of non-motorized boats, shore, dock or swim raft, swimmer, or any moored or anchored boat. (THIS IS A LAW - YOU CAN BE ISSUED A CITATION FOR CARELESS OPERATION IF NOT COMPLYING.)
- Operate only from 9:30 AM to 1 hour before sunset.
- Any one under the age of 13 **may not** operate a PWC, even with an adult on board.
- 13 year-olds must either have someone at least 21 on board, **or** a watercraft operator's permit and be in continuous visual observation by someone at least 21.
- Persons between the ages of 14-17 must either have a watercraft operators permit, **or** someone at least 21 on board.
- Keep the throttle depressed when turning, even in an emergency.
- Don't ride too close to other boats.
- Don't chase or harass wildlife.
- Don't weave through other boat traffic or jump the wake of another watercraft within 150 feet of another boat.
- Make sure you have a rules decal in full view of the operator.
- Carry a USCG approved fire extinguisher.
- When towing a person on water skis or other device, an additional person must be on board as an observer.



USE SOUND JUDGMENT

- ▶ Keep the neighborhood peace and quiet in mind.
- ▶ Talk to your neighbors to see if your riding bothers them.
- ▶ Don't modify your machine or do anything to make it louder.
- ▶ Don't use illegal drugs or alcohol.

(Source: Minnesota Personal Watercraft Laws)

BALD EAGLE FACTS

How many bald eagles live in Minnesota?

Minnesota's bald eagle population has grown from 207 pairs in 1982 to 618 pairs in 1999.

Why is it called the "Bald" eagle?

Odd that a bird with feathers all over its head has the name "Bald". Back in 1200, when Middle English was spoken, they had the word "balled" which meant "shining white". Balled was used as a reference to the mature bald eagle's white head.

How big are they?

The females are larger, but both male and female are between 28 and 38 inches long and have a wingspread from 66 inches to 8 feet!

How long do they live?

Wild bald eagles may live as long as 30 years, but the average lifespan is probably 15-20 years. In captivity they have lived as long as 48 years. Between 80-90% of newborn bald eagles die each year - approximately 40% of those don't survive their first flight.

How fast can they fly?

Between 36 and 44 miles per hour. One was clocked at 30 miles per hour carrying a fish. They can reach in excess of 100 miles per hour when diving.

How large is their nest?

A typical nest is about 5 feet in diameter and over 6 feet tall, weighing over a ton. Because eagles often use the same nest year after year, some of them become enormous - as much as 9 feet in diameter and weighing 2 tons!

How good is their eye sight?

All eagles are renowned for their excellent eyesight. They are capable of seeing fish in the water from several hundred feet above, while soaring, gliding, or in flapping flight. Their eye's sharpness is a least four times that of a person with perfect vision. The eagle can probably identify a rabbit moving almost a mile away. That means that an eagle flying at an altitude of 1000 feet over open country could spot prey over an area of almost 3 square miles from a fixed position!

Other Interesting Facts

- ◆ One way to determine the sex of an eagle is to examine its beak. Females have deeper (distance from top to chin) beaks than males.
- ◆ During incubation of the eggs, the male bald eagle regularly brings green sprigs of conifer branches to the nest. No one knows why he does this, but it could be for deodorizing the nest or possibly providing shade for the eaglets.
- ◆ Eagles have a crop where they can store food when their stomach is full. The crop also separates items that are indigestible such as, feathers, fur, and scales. These indigestible items are mixed with mucus and formed into a mass, which the eagle eventually regurgitates.
- ◆ The bald eagle can lift about 4 pounds.
- ◆ An eagle has 7000 feathers. These make up 10% - 12% of its total weight, which is 10-15 pounds.

I found this and much more interesting information on the "American Bald Eagle Information" website: www.baldeagleinfo.com. This site also has screen savers and greeting cards. Other good websites are: "What Barbara's Camera Sees" at www.barbarascamera.com and the "U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service" at www.midwest.fws.gov/eagle. The Fish & Wildlife Service website even has a slide show!



BOATING LITTER & FISH WASTE FACTS

Clean water is so important for good boating and fishing that any floating litter or fish waste can spoil an otherwise good boating or fishing day.

What you can do. . .

About Litter

1. Help other boaters and anglers understand ways to control boating litter and fish waste.
2. Reduce the potential for litter by removing unnecessary packages and wrappings, and bringing reusable containers on the boat.
3. Always bring back what you take out.
4. Have several litter bags aboard and discard full ones at home.
5. Smokers, please don't flick the cigarette butt, use an ashtray and always bring butts ashore.
6. When trash accidentally falls overboard, go back and get it.
7. Plastic litter doesn't degrade, so dispose of it on shore to protect fish and wildlife.
8. Recycle when possible.
9. Make a daily practice of picking up floating trash, don't let it drift by; feel good about leaving the water a bit cleaner.

About Fish Waste

1. Use a fish cleaning station.
2. Recycle fish parts by composting them or burying in a garden.
3. When no other option exists, bag the fish parts and place it in a trash container.
4. Avoid releasing bait either dead or alive into the water. This can introduce foreign species to lakes.

REMEMBER:

- ◆ Keep our boating waters litter and waste free.
- ◆ Bring back what you take out.
- ◆ Recycle fish cleaning waste.

Source: National Clean Boating Campaign
www.cleanboating.com



YOU ASKED FOR IT. . .

Several of you have asked whether it was possible to put the expiration date of your membership on the mailing label to make it easier to remember whether or not you had paid your dues.

So. . . starting with this issue the expiration date will appear on the label above your name. No more excuses for not paying your dues because you thought you already had!!

If the date shown does not agree with your records, please let us know.

WHAT IS THE MISSION OF LWA?

You will find "Lake Washburn Association" and its mission hidden here. Can you find it? If a word is repeated more than once, it will appear in the puzzle more than once. (Hint: If you don't know the mission of LWA, look on the front page.)

HAVE FUN!!

I	B	E	N	J	O	S	R	O	W	B	Y	S	S	A
B	K	N	O	A	Y	R	U	W	E	I	S	M	O	S
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WILD RICE - AN ECOLOGICAL TREASURE ON WASHBURN

By Richard D. Nelles

The present buoys, south of the East Narrows, are there to protect the wild rice beds that the Native Americans used, by discouraging boat traffic through the bed.

I came here in 1948 at age 12, and I feel I have some knowledge to pass on concerning the wild rice bed on East Lake. There used to be one cabin on the east side of Washburn, and since there wasn't a road into the area, they came in by boat from the Iowa camp. There was a wonderful elderly couple named Ed and Inga Nystrom that lived just south of the Narrows. We were next, just north of them. From the Narrows south, there was a narrow channel with just enough room for two boats that wound it's way through the rice to the first island. (The current channel is in much the same place.)

As both the East and West lakes developed over time, a great many of Lake Washburn's treasures changed. One of those, I am addressing, is the wild rice. Unfortunately many historic rice beds have been lost. Although it is impossible to measure exactly how many acres of rice have disappeared, it is clear the loss has been substantial. In order to restore the beds, it will take two specific things: Mother Nature and protecting the current rice area.

Rice can be hurt by changes in water levels, boat wakes, exotic species, and pollution. Water depth is perhaps the most critical element. Rice grows in about 1/2 - 3 feet of water, with 1-2 feet being optimal. Here at Washburn we are unique because one part of the lake is 101 feet deep, yet another part can grow wild rice.

The optimal sediment type is several inches of soft organic muck, but it will tolerate sand and gravel.

Boats are also a critical element - they have a negative impact on the wild rice beds. Because rice is so shallow rooted, it is easily pulled and this destroys its growing ability. Early in the spring or even in the summer, from the air, you can see the open wounds caused by boat traffic through the beds. The boats leave a light colored streak on the lake bottom where the propeller tears the rice plants loose. These light colored streaks are sand because the propeller tears loose the organic muck as well as the plant.

A QUICK OVERVIEW OF THE WILD RICE LIFE CYCLE

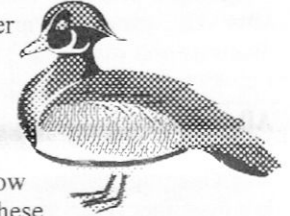
Rice is an annual aquatic grass. Seeds drop to the lake bottom in August or September. They remain dormant in the mud until spring, when warming water and low oxygen conditions stimulate germination.

By late May and early June the plant is in the submerged leaf stage. By mid-June the plant is in the floating leaf stage when ribbon-like leaves lay flat on the waters surface. Now we are at the most critical stage, when the plant is buoyant. High winds, boat wakes, or a rapid increase in water levels can uproot or drown entire beds.

By the end of June aerial shoots develop, followed by flowering in late July. Male and female flowers develop followed by wind borne pollen. In August and September the seeds develop and mature. We now have food and cover for the ducks, and we have a plant in the water to make the lake healthy.

Wild rice can help maintain water quality by binding loose soils, tying up nutrients, and slowing winds across the shallow wetland portion of our lake. These factors increase water clarity and reduce algae blooms.

Yes my friends, wild rice on Lake Washburn is an ecological treasure, and we can all help protect it.



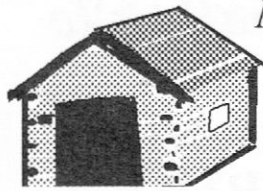
FUN QUESTIONS RELATED TO GROUNDWATER

(Answers on page 10)

1. Is "groundwater" one word or two?
2. Water that flows across the ground and into streams is know as what?
3. True or false - Contaminated water always tastes and smells bad.
4. What's another name for a drainage basin?
5. How much does one gallon of water weigh?
6. How much water does a shower take?
7. Who was the first scientist to identify the water cycle?

CORRECTION

An error was made in last issue's "ACCL Meeting" article. The last sentence of the second paragraph should read: "Then Cass County will take them to court."



NOTES FROM THE BOATHOUSE

by Kirk Smith

It's been a while and it feels good to be back at the keyboard. I know that I've visited with you about this

subject before but, it is such interesting and important info that I thought it would be a good idea to update you all with the latest developments we've seen in the past few years. That subject is the steadily prevailing force of Four Stroke Outboard Motors.

First a quick review: Since Ole Evinrude built his first "outboard motor", until just very recently, the majority of these motors have been of the Two Cycle variety. These 2-cycle or 2-stroke outboards have had some distinctly positive qualities: 1. Power to weight ratio is excellent, an important consideration in many smaller boats that would be adversely effected by a heavy power plant. 2. Simplicity of design made for lower costs. 3. Mixture of oil and gas produce varying levels of smoke during low speed operation which, according to some, is an excellent mosquito deterrent and trigger for nostalgic memories.

While these are admittedly positive qualities, let's examine for a moment the somewhat less than desirable characteristics of these 2-strokes: 1. These motors produce their most efficient power at a very high RPM, thus making for a shorter life expectancy of the moving parts. 2. The fashion in which lubricant is deliver to the internal working parts (a mixture of gasoline and oil) makes for a less than efficient combustion process, hence a substantial amount of unburned heavy-end hydrocarbons are released into the environment during operation. 3. Also, the cylinder porting which allows the new fuel mixture to enter the combustion chamber and the old burned/burning fuel charge to leave the combustion chamber is really very inefficient, thus a certain amount of unburned oil and fuel mixture passes thru this style of motor without ever being burned! Thank God the fuel/oil mixture is lighter than water, so it can evaporate while floating on the surface of the lake! 4. Most attempts to muffle the exhaust of these motors produces a substantial loss of power, hence a sort of "Catch 22" for the manufacturers, quietness or power?

Over the last 25 years, manufacturers have made steady progress into the production of a group of outboard motors that represent the state of the art in more efficient power plants. Enter the 4-Cycle (or 4-stroke outboard). Without delving deeply into a comparison of engineering features, lets just simply look at the qualities of these motors. Positive qualities: 1. These engine are designed almost identically to the engine in your car or SUV. They have a pressurized, recirculating oil system to lubricate the internal moving parts of the engine, hence no more fuel/oil mixtures with it's resulting smoke and pollution! 2. Fuel efficiency is approximately 40 % better than the 2-strokes! 3. These units are extremely quiet and smooth during operation. 4. Torque (power) is produced all through the RPM range causing less strain on the moving parts so they may last longer. 5. The very reliable Electronic Fuel Injection system is common on most of the lower mid-range to upper horsepower motors.

There are very few undesirable characteristic to the 4-stroke motors, but they can be summed up in two words: Cost and Weight. 1. Cost is typically 1/3 more than their 2-stroke

cousins of the same horsepower (I personally believe you will save this amount over the life of the motor in fuel and oil cost savings). 2. Although engineers are working to make these motors lighter, they will weight in at about 25-30% more than the 2-cycle. Note that in many applications, such as pontoons, weight is not a substantial factor.

All in all, the new 4-cycle outboards are a great step forward for the boating industry, the boating public and for our environment.

Boat Safe and Happy Landings,
Kirk

PS. Yes you did see me using the words motor and engine interchangeably. The "outboard motor" should have been named the "outboard engine" as the word motor applies to electric motors and engine applies to internal combustion engines.

LEAD (from page 5)



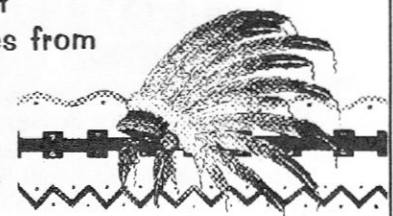
More than 17 tackle exchanges have been scheduled around the state during June through August. Gander Mountain will be having an exchange on July 11 in Duluth, Fridley, and Rochester, one in Maple Grove on August 1, and in Bloomington on August 15. Joe's Sporting Goods in St. Paul has their exchange on July 16 & 17. Tackle exchanges will also be held in the St. Cloud area, Bemedji, and Woodbury. These are just a few of the locations. A complete list of locations, dates and times will be available at the August meeting in our Resource Center and is also available on the website of the Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance at:

<http://www.moea.state.mn.us/reduce/sinkers/cfm>.

(Sources: Minneapolis Star Tribune and Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance website)

FUN FACT

Did you know that "Minnesota" comes from the Dakota Indian name "Minisota" which means sky-tinted water?



MINNESOTA DNR TO BE CONDUCTING NETTING OPERATIONS

The DNR will be conduction netting operations on Lake Washburn on the 11th of August. There will be 15 gill and 15 trap net sets. When the lake reports are complete, the association will be given a copy of the report.

We have just received the survey reports from the April and October 2002 sampling dates. If you would like to see these, as well as previous years' reports, they will be available at the "Resource Center."

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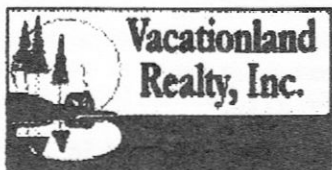
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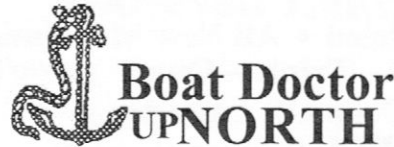
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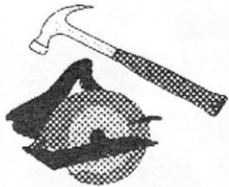
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Moving? Going to be away from home and leaving a forwarding address with the Post Office? Please send us a Change of Address when you are informing others. By using a moment of your time to drop us a card, you save the association some money and you get your newsletter delivered promptly to you. If you don't inform us, the Post Office puts your newsletter in the trash (they don't forward third class mail) and charges the association for letting us know of your new address. Send your Change of Address to: Lake Washburn Association, P.O. Box 26, Outing, MN 56662
THANKS!

JUNE 14TH GENERAL MEETING

We had a great turnout - between 60-65! Sgt. Tim Berglund with the Cass County Sheriff's Department spoke to us about the water patrol program. He also covered PWC rules (see page 6) and permitting requirements regarding temporary items left in the water overnight - boat lifts, swim rafts, and docks-if it doesn't extend from the shore. That's right - boat lifts, and loon nesting platforms, too. You are required to apply for a permit for your boat lift if it does not extend from the shore or is not permanently attached to the dock. . . and chained to the dock doesn't count - someone asked! The fee is \$5.00 for 2 years. In addition, it must be reflectorized on all sides. For more detailed information regarding permit regulations and water safety, pick up a copy of the 2003 "Minnesota Boating Guide". We will have these, as well as copies of permit applications at the August annual meeting. You may also obtain an application by contacting Sgt. Berglund at 1-800-450-2677, Ext. 329.

Dan Schultz, one of our Shoreland Volunteers, spoke enthusiastically about wanting to protect and improve the quality of Lake Washburn. He is excited to share his valuable information and resources to help all of us learn how to be better stewards. Dan generated a lot of interest and several other members have expressed the desire to become Shoreland Volunteers!

NEW LWA WEBSITE & EMAIL ADDRESS

We have a new website location! - www.mnlakes.org/LWA
You will also be able to access our website by going to Minnesota Lakes Association website at www.mnlakes.org, click on "lakes associations/current". Lake Washburn Association's name will be highlighted and you can click on it to access our site. Please be patient with us as it is currently under construction! You may also email the association at LWA@mnlakes.org. (This is up and working now!)
Please give us your feedback as we are progressing.



DON'T FORGET THE ANNUAL MEETING & ICE CREAM SOCIAL

ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 9TH AT 5:00 PM

Mike Knapp from the DNR will be there to talk about shoreline restoration and give the results of the recent electrofishing data gathered from the sampling of bass and walleyes, as well as answer any other questions you may have. We will have additional information available at the Resource Center, including coloring books & comic books for the kids, and don't forget we'll have door prizes, too. **Hope to see you there!**

THANK YOU!

Thanks to all of you that have paid your 2003 dues and made additional contributions to LWA. Our membership now totals 156, which is only 42% of all property owners. We need the rest of you, too! It's not too late to still pay your annual dues for this year.



TREASURER'S REPORT

As of mid-June we have 156 members of Lake Washburn Association for 2003. There are well over 360 properties on Lake Washburn so our rate of membership is far too low.

Our readers are reminded that our power and influence with other agencies and state offices is related to how well our membership supports our organization and its goals and objectives. One measure of support is by comparing the number of memberships with the number of people eligible for membership. For those of you who have not become members this year, we strongly encourage you to do so.

We would also remind everyone that work of Lake Washburn Association does benefit everyone on the lake. Coordination of efforts with DNR is helping with improvement of our fishery, cooperation with the County Sheriff is improving boating safety through placement and handling of navigation buoys, work with the state and county on ecological issues is helping us preserve the quality of Lake Washburn and we believe that our positive relationships with emergency organizations in the area is resulting in improved fire protection and emergency medical assistance. Further, the Association attempts to provide useful information to all residents through its periodic newsletters, providing a forum for knowledgeable speakers on subjects of interest and other useful activities.

The Board of Directors and Officers have been good stewards of the resources of our Association so we do have sufficient funds for our routine operating expenses. However, we are also slowly building reserves to help pay for future costs of dealing with harmful exotic species such as Eurasian Milfoil when it shows up in Lake Washburn or for other special projects which warrant Association action. Therefore, not only do we need members but we also need memberships dues to help enhance our reserve funds.

~George Fortmeyer, Treasurer Lake Washburn Association

Summer Canister Hours

Saturday 10-12

Sunday 2-4

Monday 10-12

Wednesday 4-6

In order to use the Canister Station in Outing, you have to prepay for the service by buying special bags at local stores. The only garbage accepted will have to be in one of these orange bags which are labeled Crooked Lake Township. Not more than 30 pounds may be put in a bag and only household garbage will be accepted.

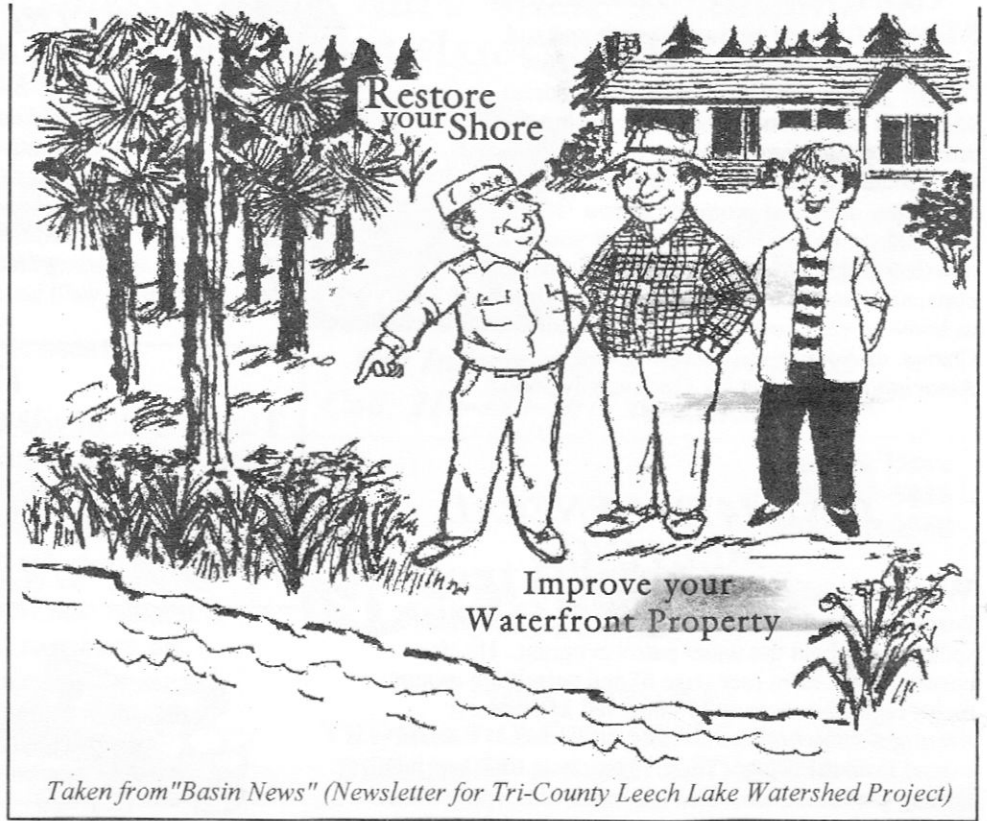
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