

Lake News

2019 Spring Issue 99

Child, Girl, and Woman Lakes Area Association



Aquatic Invasive Species Update

The Minnesota DNR lists a total of 1,057 infestations in approximately 770 bodies of water statewide through April 2, 2019. The invasive species in Cass County include zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, and faucet snails. There were no new infestations reported in Cass County in 2018 and through April 2, 2019. Please visit the Minnesota DNR website at www.mndnr.gov/ais for more information on aquatic invasive species and a list of infested waters.

Cass County is hiring a full time AIS coordinator with a four-year degree in management or biological sciences and



an assistant or lead inspector to handle the scheduling of watercraft inspectors throughout the county. Trained watercraft inspectors will again be checking watercraft at many of our public launch ramps in Cass County this year. The Cass County AIS Management Plan can be found on their website under : "Environmental Services," "Helpful Links," "Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)." The monthly schedules for watercraft inspectors are also posted there.

The Lake Association has been developing a draft AIS Response Plan to be better prepared in the event a new infestation is discovered in our chain of lakes. Key elements of the plan are Prevention, Detection, Reporting, Verification, Response, Treatment, and Monitoring. This document is being reviewed by the board of directors for their approval and will be included in the revised Lake Management Plan. When available, the plan will be posted on the CGWLAA website.

In the 2019 membership renewal letter, the Association offered a volunteer opportunity for individuals to receive

training (paid for by the Association) from the University of Minnesota AIS Research Center about how to accurately identify both invasive and native aquatic species. Unfortunately, there were no volunteers. The Association is now looking at retaining professional services of a licensed entity in our area to conduct inspections at key locations for possible introductions. These locations would currently be the four public launch ramps within our chain of lakes: two on Woman Lake, one on Child Lake, and one on Girl Lake.

The Association is also interested in purchasing several copies of the AIS Identification Field Guide from the University of Minnesota AIS Research Center. These will be used to assist members in identifying potential invasive species they may discover, and one copy will be made available to each Lake Representative. This is a very informative manual containing excellent photos of invasive and native species.

Lake Association members are reminded that we can all serve as AIS detectors. You can act in this capacity by watching your shoreline area for potential invasive species including inspecting the framework of your docks and lifts for zebra mussels. The hulls of your watercraft and the lower units of outboard engines are also attachment surfaces for zebra mussels. If you find any possible invasive



species, please contact Rich Hess, Aquatic Invasive Species Chairman, at 218-363-2282. High resolution, close-up photos should be taken, and samples of zebra mussels or invasive vegetation can be placed in sealed plastic bags.

Rich Hess, AIS Chairman

Krusin' with Don



AIS is still a critical concern to us all. If you have guests that bring their boats to our chain of lakes, please make sure you know what waters the boats came from. There are many infested lakes around the area, and we would like to keep ours free of zebra mussels. It is the responsibility of everyone to help keep our lakes free of AIS. Please help keep these invaders out of our lakes.

Please be mindful of the loons we have on our lakes. Loons are very territorial and will be in the same area most of the summer. It takes young chicks two months before they can fly. Please give them plenty of room while boating.

This year we switched from the free tree and shrub program to the shoreline buffer program with free plants to help with erosion problems. The Association offered plants in the fall newsletter that will aid in shoreline restoration. We had over 50 members take advantage of this program. It is very encouraging to see many members are taking care of their shoreline.

Your Association Board meets at 6:30 PM the third Thursday, May through October, at the Woodrow Town Hall. All members are invited to attend. Our annual meeting this year will be on Saturday, August 3, at 10:00 AM in the Woodrow Town Hall. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Important dates to remember:

May 15

June 20 (meeting starts at 5 PM instead of 6:30 PM)

July 18

August 3 (Annual Meeting at 10 AM)

August 15

September 5 (Recognition Dinner)

September 19

October 9 (meeting on Wednesday instead of Thursday)

Have a safe summer and enjoy our pristine lakes. We are so fortunate to have this beautiful environment and clear clean water.

Don Kruse, President

Woodrow Township & Water Patrol Volunteer Opportunities

Following a bad storm, there can be damage to area homes or utilities. The sooner this damage is reported, the faster any problems can be addressed. Woodrow Township is recruiting volunteers to patrol their respective neighborhoods immediately following a storm and report any problems. The group is called the "Woodrow Watchdogs." If you live in Woodrow Township and are interested in learning more about this program, please contact Bob Hanke at woodrowtwpchair@tds.net.

The CGWLAA Water Patrol is a volunteer organization sponsored and supported by the Cass County Sheriff's

Office. We are provided with a boat equipped with a two-way radio, which allows direct contact the the sheriff's dispatch center should the need arise. The boat is a 21' Warrior full console that is very easy to navigate. Patrolling occurs from fishing opener through September 19. The Water Patrol welcomes volunteers to help keep our lakes safe with three hours a month out on the water Saturday and Sunday. Please contact Tim Bruhjell at 651.368.5402 or timaliceb@gmail.com.

Bob Hanke, Membership & Tim Bruhjell, Water Patrol

Tackling Troublesome Ticks

The Minnesota Department of Health wants you to stay safe during tick season. Minimize your exposure to ticks with these simple tips.

Use DEET-based repellents up to 30% on your skin or clothing. Pretreat your clothing and gear with permethrin-based repellents. (Permethrin is a medication and insecticide which kills ticks and other insects.)

Perform tick checks after spending time in wooded, brushy or grassy areas and other tick habitats. If you find a tick on yourself, remove it immediately.

Tame landscaping by keeping your law mowed and removing leaves and brush. Create a barrier of wood chips or rocks between laws and wooded areas.

Signs and symptoms to look for if you have been bitten by a tick are rash, fever, or muscle and joint pain. If you are concerned, contact your healthcare provider.

Minnesota Department of Health



Fishing with Bill - Have a Crappie Day!

Spring is upon us and that means crappie. What about that name... Some people pronounce it to rhyme with "happy," but the preferred pronunciation is "KROP-ee."

In spring, crappies move into shallow water to spawn and sometimes concentrate in huge numbers. Most fishermen agree that the spawn for crappies as a whole lasts from 25 to 60 days. Fish begin spawning when the water temperature reaches about 61 degrees and peaks at 68 to 72 degrees. There may be one or two days with no fish against the bank, then a day or two later they will move in and spawn, and then move right back out to deeper water.

Researchers and anglers alike note that crappie tend to move around often at night. Voracious feeders, they follow shad as these baitfish journey daily from creeks and the backs of coves to open water. The key thing to remember is that the fish move, and if you are fishing in a place and not catching any crappie, move. However, recheck that spot even four or five hours later, and the fish may be there.

Crappies typically reach the minimum legal length of 10 inches in three years. I have heard and read that an adult crappie can eat up to 75 minnows a day. These fish are

aggressive feeders. Most anglers believe that crappie minnows are the only way to hook these fish, but research and my own experiences have shown that jigs often out-fish bait.



Think light and small when rigging for crappie. Ultralight gear is plenty heavy and multiplies the fun. Use the smallest jig the wind will let you cast. I favor a 1/32- to 1/8-ounce lead-head jig. Four or five basic colors – white, red, black, pink, brown – seem to work best although it varies from day to day. Anglers today have access to all types of baits to trigger crappie bites. Soft baits by Trigger X, Berkley Powerbait, and Mr. Crappie are all good options along with countless others.

The Woman Lake Chain offers fantastic opportunities for crappie fishing. The action does not end as the spawn winds down. Fishing remains good all through ice up. Fish move deeper after the spawn but still relate to some of the same areas. Casting jigs in along deeper weedlines in places like Broadwater Bay, Bungy Bay,

Girl, and Child will all produce fish

Bill Hornung, Child Lake Representative

Membership Responds to Shoreline Buffer Plant Program

On May 25, Vic Rinke, Colin Steffen, and Sue Meyer distributed the 2019 plants to CGWLAA members that signed up for the buffer plant program last December. Association members can receive up to six free plants each year. They are native Minnesota plants with deep roots and sturdy stems to help prevent erosion problems.

Longleaved bluets and obedient plants were some of the ten species that were available for planting in lakeshore buffer areas. Buffer areas are places of lakeshore where water runoff and erosion can occur. Reducing nutrient runoff helps keep our waters clean and clear. Over 50 CGWLAA members participated this year.

Vic Rinke, Conservation/Stewardship, stated he received questions about plants to replace aspen destroyed by beavers and how to replace the entire understory plants with native plants. Native plants allow the ecosystem to function efficiently by providing habitat for insects and critters that have fed birds and animals for thousands of years.

Plants distributed this years came from Prairie Restorations Inc. in Princeton, MN. Locally, Sunshine Nursery

south of Woman Lake off Highway 84 has a nice selection of more mature native plants available. An order form for the 2020 program will be available in the fall newsletter. Below Melanie Gebbe picks up plants from Vic Rinke.



Vic Rinke, Conservation/Stewardship Chair

Be Loon Aware!

The loon, our state bird, arrives in April soon after the ice leaves our beautiful northern lakes. Loons mate for life, but their allegiance may be to the lake and not their mate. Loons may migrate separately, returning to the same lake arriving within hours or days of each other and reunite. They are very territorial and return each year to the same lake and nesting area. The nests are usually built in shallow water near the shoreline or on an island in tall grass or reeds. The loons begin laying their eggs in early May, usually 2 eggs, and the incubation period is between 28 and 30 days. The parent loons share responsibility remaining on the nest 99% of the time. They leave the nest within 12 to 24 hours after the last chick has hatched moving to their nursery area on the lake where they remain for the rest of the summer.



Loon Facts: Did You Know?

Average Weight: 10 pounds

Length: 30 inches from head to tail

Wingspan: 5 feet

Plumage: Dense and waterproof to aid in diving.

Summer Plumage: Black back with white spots and stripes, white underside, black/iridescent green head.

Winter Plumage: Gray coat with white belly.

Appearance: Males and females look alike, but males are larger.

Chicks: Grayish/brown and take 3 1/2 years to resemble an adult.

Eyes: Red, which serves as a filter to aid underwater vision.

Bill: Long, large, and black, "evenly tapered dagger."

Feet: Positioned further back on their body than other birds. Helps the loon dive, but creates difficulty in walking on land. Long, webbed, flexible toes helpful in swimming.

Life Span: 25 to 30 years

Diet: About 2 pounds of fish a day, supplemented with amphibians, crustaceans and similar mid-sized aquatic fauna. Typically crayfish, frogs, snails, salamanders, and leeches.

If you are boating, water skiing, or jet skiing in shallow water or near the shoreline, be aware your wave action can be very detrimental to the loons and their nest. The waves could cause the eggs to be washed off of the nest, or too much action could cause the loons to abandon their nest. If the loons are forced off their nest, they will try to re-nest causing much stress to the adults and resulting in a late hatch that puts the chicks in danger of a delayed timeframe for fall migration.

Watch the loons and nests from a safe distance giving the loons plenty of room; binoculars assist and offer a great view of the loons. Let the loons decide how close they want to be. If you approach too close, the adult may leave the nest in an attempt to lead you away leaving the eggs and/or chicks unattended and open to predators.

The first two weeks of life are the most vulnerable for the chicks; they will spend 50 to 65% of the time on their parents back. When in the water, the chicks bob like corks. After a couple of days, they will attempt to dive but can only remain under water for one to two seconds. This is not enough time to avoid a collision, and it will be many weeks before they can dive to safety. Please stay far enough away while observing or when passing the loons. Do not go between the adults and chicks separating them. Loons are protected from harassment under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Intentional harassment should be reported to the DNR.

Enjoy our beautiful loons, view and take pictures while maintaining a safe distance, and protect our state bird!



Predators: Raccoons, otter, mink, gulls, crows, ravens, large fish, and snapping turtles that eat loon eggs or checks. Eagles may even eat adult loons.

Adult Air Speed: 70 to 75 miles per hour

Breeding Age: Starting at 3 to 4 years old; typically begin nesting at 5 years.

Nesting: Close to the water or water edge.

Incubation: Approximately 28-30 days; both parents take turns on the nest.

Basic calls: Yodel, wail, tremolo, and hoot. Only the male gives the yodel call used to defend breeding territory.

Sue Meyer, Girl Lake Representative

Information about Minnesota Lakes and Rivers (MLR)

Lake home and cabin owners have an unmatched passion for Minnesota's lakes. Collectively, they volunteer 1.2 million hours towards lake protection. As an individual, you have the choice to become an advocate for lakes by joining Minnesota Lakes and Rivers, even if you are a member of a lake association that is an MLR partner.

Since 1993, MLR has been lake home and cabin owner's voice at the Minnesota Legislature. Beginning in 2012, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates started working with lake associations' members to advance aquatic invasive species prevention efforts and other issues important to them. MLR has built the largest and most active grassroots conservation group in Minnesota, but there is more work to do, and the financial support of individual lake and cabin owners has fallen.

"Some people believe, I think, that if their lake association is a member, that MLR does not need their support. But that is not the case," said the MLR Executive Director. "We are dependent on individuals to keep us financially viable and effective at the legislature - we count on Minnesota's lake home and cabin families. We are a unique model in that way."

A grassroots strategy requires individual members to step up. Lake Associations are key civic organizations at the Township, City, and County levels and do incredibly important work. But for statewide advocacy, individual voters must engage. In order to be most effective, lake home and cabin owners must be active in their lake associations while also participating in a statewide effort through Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates, MLR, that provides:

*Full time lobbying at the State Capitol to change laws, push pro-water initiatives, and direct funds towards local lake and river projects, including \$10 million annually in County AIS Prevention Aid to our counties.

*A strategic and coordinated series of pro-water news stories in press, television, and radio to educate citizens and politicians on water issues.

*Support for local partnerships that build lake association capacity and give local water advocates a seat at the table.

*Support funding for world class science. MLR was the only organization to advocate for creation of the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center to identify issues and discover on-the-ground solutions to our water problems.



To learn more, go to www.mnlakesandrivers.org or call 952-854-1317.

CGWLAA is a member of MLR. However, the Association does not take a position on political issues because we do not know the preference of all of our members. However, individuals have the right to engage in taking positions on their own and through organizations such as MLR.

Stay in Touch...

- * Visit the CGWLAA website at www.womanlakechain.org
- * Follow CGWLAA on Facebook at www.facebook.com/womanlakechain
- * For questions or information about volunteer opportunities email info@womanlakechain.org
- * Add the Annual Meeting on August 3, 10 AM, Woodrow Town Hall to your calendar
- * To share newsletter feedback, suggest topics, submit articles & pictures email the editor at lckane@live.com

Lake News

Child, Girl and Woman Lakes
Area Association
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Child, Girl, and Woman Lakes Area Association

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Standing Committees

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Task Committees

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Facebook Manager	Kathy Scharmer	kscharmer@mchsi.com	319-361-1443

Lake Representatives

Zone 1	Andrew Benjamin	218-682-2513	Zone 6	Vacant Position	
Zone 2	Vacant Position		Zone 7	Kenneth Hanson	218-682-2045
Zone 3	Jim Limburg	218-363-2589	Zone 8	Vacant Position	
Zone 4			Zone 9	Peter Zenk	218-363-3445
Zone 5	John Lange	218-682-3119	Zone 10		218-363-2513