

Winter
2012
Newsletter

Long Lake Link

Long Lake Property Owners Association
www.minnesotawaters.org/LLPOA

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Long Lake Link
PO Box 292
Longville, MN 56655
Lake ID: 11-0142-00

Upcoming Area Events

January 28: Ice golf and ice bowling
Anchorage Inn
Hwy. 7 on Lake Inguadona

February 4: Ice Bocce Tournament @ Patricks

February 10-12: Lake Home & Cabin Show
Mpls. Convention Center
(Be sure and visit the Bill Hansen Realty booth!)

February 17-19: 33rd Annual Eelpout Festival
Walker Bay on Leech Lake



WELL WATER TESTING

The LLPOA will be sponsoring a well water testing program in the spring of 2012. Property owners will be able to take water samples from their wells to a drop-off location; experts will test the samples and provide each property owner with their results. This will be a great way to find out if your water is safe for consumption. Further details will be provided in the Spring 2012 Long Lake Link.



LLPOA MISSION

The purpose of this association shall be to maintain and improve lake water quality and lake bed health, maintain and continue fish propagation and protect wildlife and its habitat.

It shall also provide education about many issues affecting lake property owners and users through the dissemination of information to Long Lake property owners and their families.

President's Letter

Greetings,

I wish each of you a Happy New Year and lots of good times while you are at the lake. We are so blessed to have a healthy and beautiful lake to enjoy. It's that time of year when the lake talks back to us. New ice has been forming and there is no snow on the ice to muffle the ice sounds. On a cold night, with the stars shining above, there is no better place to be than on the ice looking up at the sky and enjoying the view. Isn't that what it's all about?

Here are a few items that the Association hopes to accomplish this year:

- You will see a few new larger buoys marking the rock piles on the northeast side of the lake, making them more visible to boaters.
- The Board of Directors approved stocking the lake this spring with perch fingerlings in order to build up a forage base so that more walleye fingerlings can be stocked by the DNR.
- We will continue to monitor the lake's water quality with water testing by RMB Environmental Laboratories and Secchi readings by volunteers. We have seen a slight improvement in our water quality as the lake has returned to its near normal levels. We still need to improve our shorelines to prevent water runoff from reaching the lake. I hope each of you will consider doing just one little project this summer to help our lake stay pristine. Something as simple as letting your grass grow a little longer before you mow would help.
- We will be enjoying the 4th of July boat parade again this year. Boats will meet at "the narrows," and this time we'll start out heading north on the lake. Hope we see even more boats participating this year.
- I highly recommend holding neighborhood picnics this coming summer - it's really a fun way to get to know your neighbors on the lake.
- Everyone needs to be aware of the importance of boating safety this summer, especially near the narrows. All boaters need to slow down and keep the wake to a minimum as they pass through the narrows. Public safety is paramount!
- If you are not yet a member of the Association, please consider joining. All your dues are used for the improvement of the lake, and that benefits all property owners and guests on Long Lake.

Please feel free to contact me or your Zone Director at anytime about your lake concerns. Our contact information is on the last page of this newsletter.

Enjoy the rest of your winter, and here's looking forward to another wonderful summer!

Dick Loeffler

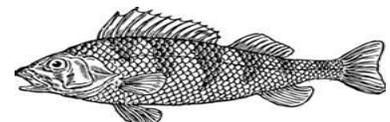
Ranger Rick's Fish Tails

To put it in plain words, the ice fishing this early winter has been very poor. This is mainly due to the fact that the ice has not been safe enough to be on. Long Lake finally froze over on December 6, which is late in my book. The warm weather, and the repeated thawing and freezing of the ice, have not helped either.

I have only seen three ice fishing houses on the lake all winter so far. This has been a good year for the fish - because they are still in the lake and not in the frying pan!

The only fishing reports I have received about catches were of one nice 28 inch northern pike, plus just a few other smaller pike. I did get a report of a sighting of a 36+ inch northern that refused to bite! Fishing on the other local lakes has been fair to poor also. It seems as though the walleye bites are few and far between, even on Woman Lake.

I can't wait until spring and finding some additional fishing hot spots!!



U of M Offers Tips to Prevent Septic Systems from Freezing

(Brainerd Dispatch, December 22, 2011)

Freezing problems with septic systems may be more common this year because a lack of snow cover across Minnesota exposes existing system inadequacies as temperatures dip lower. Snow serves as an insulating blanket over septic tanks and soil treatment areas. According to Extension staff at the University of Minnesota Onsite Sewage Treatment program, lack of snow allows frost to go deeper into the ground, potentially freezing system components. The good news is that frost depths are still fairly shallow statewide. The most important concern is cold air entry into the system. Open, broken and uncapped risers or inspection pipes allow cold air into the system and can cause the system to freeze. Other causes of a frozen septic system include outdated or overloaded systems, the absence of vegetative cover over the system, slow leaking plumbing fixtures, compacted soils, and irregular water use.

Follow these tips if you are concerned about your system freezing: 1) Place an 8 to 12" layer of mulch over the pipes, tank and soil treatment area to provide extra insulation; 2) make sure all access points to your system are covered, sealing them and adding insulation is a good practice; 3) use water, the warmer the better, during cold snaps, run the dishwasher, take a hot bath, spread your warm laundry schedule to one load a day instead of doing it all once a week, do not leave water running, this will hydraulically overload your system; and 4) fix any leaky plumbing fixtures or appliances in your home, this will help prevent freezing problems and increase the longevity of your septic system.

If you experience a frozen septic system, contact a Minnesota licensed septic system professional immediately to identify the cause of freezing and provide relief. Many maintainers and installers operate steamers and high-pressure jetters to thaw system piping. Other methods used to help fix a freezing problem include adding heat tape and/or tank heaters. Cameras can be sent down the pipes to determine where the freezing is occurring and if repairs are needed. If the soil treatment system is full of ice, or there is evidence of leaking, there is no need to thaw the lines leading to the treatment area, as it cannot accept liquid until the area is thawed in spring. Unless the cause of freezing is corrected, the system is likely to refreeze next winter, so it is essential to identify and correct the problem.

In the long term, having a properly designed, installed, maintained and operated system is your best insurance against freezing issues. Do not put off repairing your system if you know of problems. The current lack of snow cover may expose these problems and create costly and difficult circumstances.

To find a licensed septic system professional, visit the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency website at <http://bit.ly/tA8RtQ>.

Find more information about winter septic systems problems at www.septic.umn.edu/factsheets/freezingproblems.

A LITTLE WINTER HUMOR...

A guy decides to go ice fishing one winter's day. As he starts drilling his hole a voice from above says, "There are no fish under the ice!" Three times he starts to drill and three times he hears the same words, "There are no fish under the ice!" Finally he looks toward the sky and asks, "Is that you Lord?"

"No, stupid," comes the reply, "I'm the hockey rink announcer."



Latest Zebra Mussel Find Raises New Worry for DNR Officials

A second zebra mussel discovery in a western Minnesota lake, barely 60 miles from the first infestation, has state conservation officials worried that the spread of the invasive species is part of a disturbing trend. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff members determined Saturday that zebra mussels found at Lake Irene in Douglas County had hitchhiked there this summer on a boat lift that had been moved from an infested lake, the state agency said Tuesday. A nearly identical scenario was revealed less than two weeks earlier on Rose Lake, to the north in Otter Tail County. "Moving docks and boat lifts from zebra mussel-infested lakes to other lakes is a serious issue," said Nathan Olson, DNR invasive species specialist in Fergus Falls. "We can't stress enough that everyone needs to take extra precautions to avoid transporting these pests to other state waters. Heavy infestations can kill native mussels, threaten fish populations and interfere with recreation."



At Lake Irene, the inspection turned up clusters of mussels on the feet and inside the tubing of the boat lift. The next day, a diver searched the lake bottom near the boat lift and found zebra mussels attached to rocks. No additional zebra mussels were found on 74 other boat lifts and docks nearby. The DNR plans to treat the small area with copper sulfate, a common chemical used to treat snails that cause swimmers itch. The same tactic was employed at Rose Lake. "We are hoping that early detection and rapid response to the zebra mussel discovery might prevent an infestation," Olson said. "We won't know for sure if treatment is successful until next summer." The DNR will designate Lake Irene as infested, meaning additional restrictions for the transport of water from the lake. It also means increased enforcement and watercraft inspection efforts in this area. Irene will be the seventh lake the DNR has designated as infested with zebra mussels in 2011.

It is illegal to possess, import, purchase, sell, propagate, transport or introduce invasive species into Minnesota waters. Boat lifts and docks are of particular concern because they sit in the water for extended periods, giving adult zebra mussels a greater opportunity to attach themselves.

Article by Paul Walsh, Minneapolis Star Tribune, October 12, 2011

REDUCE → **REUSE** → **RECYCLE**

Club Must Form to Keep County Ski Trails Groomed

Some cross-country ski trails in Cass County are in danger of not being groomed this winter if a club doesn't form and commit to grooming and maintaining the trails. Without a club to partner with Cass County, the Hiram, Goose Lake, Washburn Lake and Cut Lake Trails will not be groomed and the parking lots will not be maintained.

The county has never had a club responsible for grooming and maintaining the cross-country ski trails, according to Cass County Land Commissioner Josh Stevenson. The grooming of trails has varied over time. Initially the DNR Trails & Waterways staff groomed the trails, followed by the State of Minnesota. When the state transitioned into a Grants-in-Aid trail system for skiers, the Cass County Land Department handled grooming. The land department staff did it for a number of years until they could no longer afford temporary staff for it, Stevenson said. A few years ago the land department staff had to eliminate six positions because of budget cuts. Individual volunteers were doing the majority of grooming work. "Although the volunteer help we had was great, it was not consistent," Stevenson said.

When the state created the Grant-In-Aid cross-country ski trail grants, the intention was that a club would take over the grant and the county would sponsor the activity, Stevenson explained. To be eligible for funds through Grants-in-Aid assistance, a cross-country ski club needs to be registered as a nonprofit organization, carry liability insurance, and have a group of interested people who are willing to volunteer their time. Currently the county sponsors snowmobile clubs in the county that groom snowmobile trails, as well as the Grant-in-Aid Soo Line North ATV trail that runs from Remer to Cass Lake in Cass County. Volunteer activities include clearing branches from the trails in the fall and operating a groomer in the winter. Instead of operating a groomer with volunteers, some clubs hire a groomer operator. Quite a few of the snowmobile clubs in Cass County hire people to operate the groomers.

The club will need to cover the gap between what the state can pay for through the Grants-In-Aid, what the county can contribute out of their forest recreation account and what the actual cost of grooming is. "That gap varies year-to-year depending on fuel prices, insurance prices, what the going rate is to hire someone to groom, etc.," Stevenson said. The county does own its own snowmobile, drag and trailer, which could be leased by a club for grooming the trails. In the past the county has offered a no-fee lease arrangement for grooming equipment for snowmobile trails that were just starting out. While he can't speak for the county board, Stevenson said that the recommendation from the Land Department would be to do a similar no-fee lease for a cross-country ski club that showed interest. The county's application to the state for funding for the trails was tabled until a club comes forward.

On October 20, 2011, area residents and cross-country skiers Linda McNamara and Jeanette Wolmutt of Backus, and Don Hoppe of Hackensack, met to discuss forming a Nordic ski club. "We're moving forward," McNamara said of the group's efforts to form the Lake Country Nordic Ski Club. Members are sought as the club begins to organize. People interested in becoming members, volunteering with the club or making a donation should e-mail lakecountrynordic@gmail.com as soon as possible. "The clock is ticking, the longer we wait, the less likely it will be that the state will still fund the grant," Stevenson said.

Editor's note: Even if the Hiram, Goose Lake, Washburn Lake and Cut Lake trails are not groomed, skiers in Cass County can use the groomed Deep Portage Environmental Learning Center ski trails and the Shingobee Recreation Area trails. Those trails are not managed under the state's Grants-in-Aid program and do not require a ski pass.



*Excerpted from an article written by Kelly Virden
Pine River Journal Editor, Lake Country Echo and Pine River Journal
October 27, 2011*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Dick Loeffler	rjloeffler@arvig.net
Vice President	Jim Bliss	catalyst@means.net
Secretary	Ken Johnson	colken@mywdo.com
Treasurer/Membership	Jean Olson	jjscabin@arvig.net

ZONE DIRECTORS

Zone 1	Grace Ann Parkhurst	graceann1942@aol.com
Zone 2	Bob Coulter	joniq@prodigy.net
Zone 3	Barbara McCuskey	mccuskey@arvig.net
Zone 4	Marilyn Bliss	catalyst@means.net
Zone 5	Roger Mitby	rmitby@means.net
Zone 6	Mark Eidenschink	eidensch@yahoo.com
Zone 7	Bob Alley	alleyduo@yahoo.com
Zone 8	Duane Schock	

Webmaster	Tom Sorensen	wave2000@aol.com
Newsletter Editor	Meg Voigtschild	meg@msireresults.com

2012 Board of Directors Meetings

Wednesday, May 8, 2012 @ 10:00 am
 Wednesday, June 12, 2012 @ 10:00 am
 Wednesday, July 10, 2012 @ 10:00 am
 Saturday, August 11, 2012 @ 9:30 am (registration @ 9:00 am) **
 Wednesday, September 12, 2012 @ 10:00 am

All meetings are held at Salem Lutheran Church in Longville

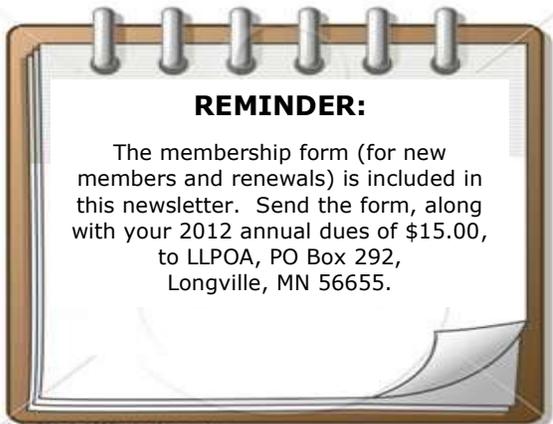
** Annual meeting

Members are always welcome!

PLEASE NOTE: If you have not yet received your updated LLPOA directory, please contact Dick Loeffler at 218-363-2184.



The 2012 Winter Games on Long Lake
(sort of..)



REMINDER:

The membership form (for new members and renewals) is included in this newsletter. Send the form, along with your 2012 annual dues of \$15.00, to LLPOA, PO Box 292, Longville, MN 56655.

HELP YOUR ASSOCIATION SAVE MONEY!

If you have an e-mail address and would like to help us save postage costs and reduce paper consumption, please forward your e-mail address to Dick Loeffler at rjloeffler@arvig.net or Meg Voigtschild at meg@msireresults.com and we will e-mail you your issues of the Link.

We will not send you anything other than the Long Lake Link (four newsletters per year). Your privacy will be protected.