

A letter from the President

Greetings Long Lakers!

Four weeks ago, there still was considerable ice on the lake, making us believe that fishing opener would require fishing through a hole in the ice. And then came the August weather with temperatures in the 80s, virtually melting the ice in two weeks. Fishing opener not only happened, but the water temperature was 57 degrees. Amazing.

I don't know about all of you, but from my perspective, this winter was a long one. We normally love to come up to the cabin during the winter where we set up a pond hockey rink, complete with regulation goal boxes and night lighting. Our kids and grandkids all love to play hockey and can skate circles around Meg and I, but we always manage to make it a fun game. This winter, it was so bone-chilling cold, it was difficult to skate or snowmobile. The January average temperature in Longville was -10°F, with an average wind of 5-18 mph. The average temperature in February was 11°F, with an average wind of 4-18 mph. The snowmobile trails were never in the greatest condition due to inadequate snowfall; and when we did get decent snow for the trails to be groomed, then the temperature tanked. So, we did not come up very often, which made our winter seem to go by incredibly slow.

I attended the Aquatic Invaders Summit in Minneapolis from February 28 – March 1, 2018, where we heard from a collaboration of AIS experts at the federal, state and municipal government levels, as well as from various lake associations currently fighting AIS outbreaks. One fact became very clear. The cost of fighting AIS, once it is in a lake, is staggering. As an example, Lake Koronis in Stearns County, discovered an infestation of starry stonewort, an alga that spreads rapidly, forming dense mats on the water's surface. These algae are so thick, they inhibit recreation on the water, kill other aquatic plants by blocking light, and provide an unsuitable shelter, food and nesting habitat for native animals. Lake Koronis's lake association and the Minnesota DNR have already collectively invested more than \$800,000 fighting this invader, and it's only just begun. An outbreak of this nature can literally render a lake unusable for recreation, devastating property values.

All in favor of not going there...say aye. Our strategy on Long Lake is one of prevention, and each of us as property owners has a role to play. It begins with education to understand what we can do to prevent an AIS infestation on Long Lake. It involves knowing which lakes are affected and following simple "*Clean – Drain – Dry*" procedures when launching any type of watercraft or toys into the lake – boats, trailers, PWCs, canoes, kayaks, water skis, hydrofoils, tow ropes, tubes, and any other objects that have been in another body of water in the last five days. (See the list of Cass County infected lakes and the Clean-Drain-Dry guidelines printed below.)

So here is what we are asking of all property owners:

Visiting friends and relatives - When visiting friends and relatives bring their own watercraft or toys to Long Lake, find out if they have been in any infected body of water in the last five days. If they have, they need to be decontaminated first with high pressure hot water before being allowed into the lake. Arrangements have been made for this to be done free at the Musky House as part of our collaboration with Cass County.

Neighbors - If you have neighbors that are not members of the Long Lake Property Owners Association, talk to them about our efforts to prevent AIS and encourage them to join so that they too can be part of the effort that protects and enhances property values on Long Lake.

The Board of Directors held our first meeting on May 12th and we discussed our focus for 2018 as dictated by the survey we ran among the membership at the Annual Meeting last August. In order of priority, you asked us to: 1) promote high water quality on the lake and continue our water testing program to monitor the quality; 2) help educate us all on AIS prevention and what each of us can do to help prevent it; 3) continue publishing the newsletter to keep all members informed; 4) place and maintain the buoys on the lake to promote safety; and 5)

continue our fish stocking program to improve fishing on Long Lake. We will do our best to make progress on each of these initiatives throughout 2018.

As always, if you have specific subjects you would like the LLPOA Board to discuss at our upcoming meetings, please feel free to e-mail me at wayne@msireresults.com. The Board is here to represent your interests.

We thank you for your continued support. Have a fun, safe summer!