

Summer 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

June 30	Turtle Town Art Fair	
July 4	Celebrate all day in Longville	
July 21	Longville Summerfest	
July 28	Community Street Dance (City parking lot)	
August 4	Bake sale; Lions' Corn Feed	
August 5	"Planes, Trains & Automobiles" (Pancake breakfast @ the airport)	
August 11	LLPOA Annual Meeting	
Sept. 1-2	Arts off 84/Art Crawl (Historical building grounds, Longville)	

LOST!! Blue and gray Sea-Doo jet-ski cover near the end of Fahrenholz Road. Please contact Kim McDonald at 218-363-3505 if found. Thanks!

Boats Inspected at Long Lake Access

The fishing opener saw boats being inspected at our public access, along with inspections at the two resorts on the south end of the lake. Each resort is now watching for AIS on boats entering the lake at their accesses. Only two boats coming from other lakes needed to be inspected. Mark Eidenschenk and Dick Loeffler pulled inspection duty on fishing opener morning. Both have taken the AIS Volunteer Inspector classes offered by the Minnesota DNR.

If you are interested in becoming an AIS Volunteer Inspector, please contact Dick Loeffler at rjloeffler@arvig.net.



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.

Ranger Rick's Fish Tails

Spring crappie fishing was on-again off-again. We had a good start, then it cooled down and the bite stopped, but it picked up again a few weeks later. I heard of several fishermen catching 6 to 8 crappies, but none of them were over 12" long. I fished at sunset in about 5' of water and caught crappies in the 9-11" range. I did find large schools of crappies suspended in 25' of water, but very few would bite on what I was offering. Maybe I need to change my tactics...

Walleyes were biting before the opener this year. The best story I heard was of one person who caught 5 walleyes while fishing for crappies off his dock. All of them were in the 14-16" range.

As always, the big bass were going crazy and were being caught by the crappie fisherman before the bass opener. The biggest bass I have ever seen in Long Lake was just south of the Narrows - I will be pursuing him after the opener.

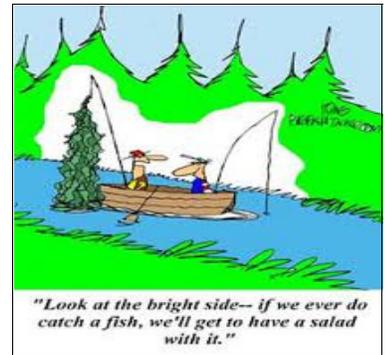
Sunfish are biting, and many are large, in the 6-8" range. The sunfish seem to be in large schools and hungry when the weeds are still short.

Deer Tail Resort report: A nice 5 pound walleye taken on a leech, big sunfish up to 9-1/2" long, numerous bass in the medium-size range.

Camp O' My Dreams report: Nice crappie catches coming in, some really nice size bass, more walleyes than they normally see. (Sounds like walleye fishing is slowly improving on our lake - but let's keep that a secret!)

Please let me know how you are doing this summer, especially if you are getting walleyes and big northern pike.

Good luck fishing!



WELL WATER TESTING



The LLPOA is sponsoring a well-water testing program. This program is open to all Long Lake property owners; you do not have to be an Association member to participate. The testing will once again be carried out by Central Water Testing Laboratory.

There are two test options. One test is for *bacteria and nitrates*, and the other is for *iron and total dissolved solids*. The cost for bacteria and nitrates testing only is \$31.50; the cost for testing iron and dissolved solids is \$13.50 - testing for both will cost \$45.00.

Testing details are as follows:

WHEN: Sunday, July 15, 2012

TIME: 10:00 am to noon

WHERE: Pick up your water sample kits @ the Musky House (Hwy. 84 & County Road 126). Test kits will include two sample jars, an information sheet and instructions for taking the well-water samples. All water samples must be no more than a few hours old and be from unsoftened water.

RETURN: The completed kits must be returned to the Musky House **no later than 2:00 pm** that same day. Payment will be collected when you drop off your samples – **cash or check only!**

The results of your water tests will be sent to the address you provide.

Does it get any better than this?



FYI: Tent caterpillars are a nuisance, but aren't harmful in the long run.

They're baaaack. A nuisance, yes, but unlikely to do lasting damage to trees, except those already diseased and dying. Tent caterpillars (they are NOT army worms) are native, ranging coast to coast, running in 10 to 20 year cycles. They attack mainly aspens and birch, but also basswood and oaks as well, gobbling leaves on most trees except red maple (no one knows why). The DNR says they will have little effect on even totally defoliated trees, as leaves grow back - sometimes smaller - in the same year. The DNR recommends NOT using common insecticides... as these are ineffective anyway, and may cause other environmental damage when used on a large scale.

The changing landscape for boaters and our lakes...

With the enactment of new laws (effective July 1, 2012) to help in the fight against aquatic invasive species (AIS), a number of new requirements are in place in Minnesota. Here are the latest updates for your review:

- Fines for anyone caught violating AIS laws will double...they were \$50 - \$100, now they will be \$100 - \$500. Failure to remove a drain plug would get you a \$100 fine, not \$50.
- Drain water from boat bilges, live wells, motors, ballast tanks and portable bait containers before leaving any waterway access or shoreline property.
- Drain plugs must be out and water draining devices open while transporting your boat.
- Boat lifts, docks, swim rafts and "water-related equipment" (not including boats and other watercraft) may not be placed in another body of water for at least 21 days, in order to kill AIS that might be attached. (The law goes into effect July 1, 2012.)
- Businesses (professionals) that repair, launch and store boats and/or install docks, lifts, buoys, etc., are required to complete extra training with the DNR and pass a test for a permit (\$50 fee) that is good for three years. Employees must take an online course to obtain a training certificate.
- Starting in 2015, boat owners will have to pass a short online course on AIS in order to receive a trailer decal allowing them to trailer and transport their boats. (*See article below for more details.*)
- Random roadside checks for AIS can be conducted by the DNR; they will be allowed to stop cars with boats to check for AIS. A new law provides for this stopping without "due cause," unlike prior random sobriety tests ruled unconstitutional in 1995. The new legislation allows the DNR to delegate this authority to local governments that have an approved inspection plan.

...and what about those decals for boat trailers?

The DNR changed the rules about the boat decals warning of AIS. The new get-tough rule, *going into effect in 2015*, requires anyone who trailers a boat to take an online test. Here is how the DNR spells it out:

A program requiring watercraft owners to place an AIS rules sticker on their boats is being discontinued and replaced with an online education program. Watercraft owners will no longer be required to place on their boats the rectangular, silver and black decals, which include a summary of the state's AIS laws.

The DNR began distributing the decals earlier this year and will continue to give them to interested boat owners for informational purposes only. A new law, which goes into effect in 2015, will require anyone who transports watercraft or water-related equipment with a trailer to complete an online education course. After completing the course, the person will receive a decal that must be placed on their trailer, certifying that they have taken the course. People taking the course can receive extra stickers if they own or use multiple trailers for watercraft or water-related equipment.

"The black and silver decal is no longer mandatory for boaters, but it is still a good informational tool to help boaters know the AIS laws," said Luke Skinner, AIS program supervisor. "Boaters who have decals can still place them on their boats or trailers as a reminder." He said the DNR will begin developing the online AIS course soon to implement the new decal requirement for 2015. The penalty for not displaying the decal will be a warning, not a citation.

The following information on Long Lake was provided by RMB Environmental Laboratories. RMB is a Minnesota-based independent analytical laboratory that offers lake monitoring services to lake associations.

Long (Main) 11-0142-02

MN Lake ID:	11-0142-02	Physical Characteristics
County:	Cass	Surface area (acres): 642
Ecoregion:	Northern Lakes and Forests	Littoral area (acres): N/A
Major Drainage Basin:	Upper Mississippi River	% Littoral area: N/A%
Latitude/Longitude:	47.02527778 / -94.17222222	Max depth (ft): 115 (m) 35.1
Water Body Type:	Public Waters	Mean depth (ft): N/A
Monitored Sites (Primary):	202 (Primary)	Watershed size (acres): N/A
Monitored Sites (Secondary):	101, 102, 201	
View MPCA CLMP Historical Secchi Data		View MN DNR Fisheries Report
Search for County Monthly Precipitation Data		View MN DNR Lake Level Report
Search for latest MPCA Assessment Report		

Water Quality Characteristics

Years monitored: 2007 - 2011

(Data from RMB monitoring database only)

RMB Lab note: prior to 2011, the reporting limit for total phosphorus was 5 ug/L. Starting in 2011, the reporting limit is 3 ug/L.

Parameters	Primary Site 202 (Primary)	Site 101	Site 102	Site 201
Total Phosphorus Mean (ug/L):	17.0	12.4	14.9	12.4
Total Phosphorus Min (ug/L):	8.0	5.0	10.0	10.0
Total Phosphorus Max (ug/L):	22.0	25.0	27.0	15.0
Number of Observations:	4	15	10	5
Chlorophyll-a Mean (ug/L):	2.5	3.1	3.1	3.0
Chlorophyll-a Min (ug/L):	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Chlorophyll-a Max (ug/L):	4.0	6.0	5.0	5.0
Number of Observations:	4	15	10	5
Secchi Depth Mean (ft):	22.0	20.3	19.8	21.0
Secchi Depth Min (ft):	20.0	14.0	12.0	17.0
Secchi Depth Max (ft):	28.0	25.0	28.0	28.0
Number of Observations:	4	15	10	4

Trophic State Index Mean (Primary Site): 38.3
Trophic State: Oligotrophic



Long-term Trends

(Primary site only. A minimum of 8-10 years of data with 4 or more readings per season are recommended. Minimum confidence accepted by the MPCA is 90%)

Total Phosphorus:	No significant trend exists.
Chlorophyll-a:	No significant trend exists.
Secchi Depth:	No significant trend exists.

EcoRegion Comparisons

(Primary site only. Comparisons are based on interquartile range, 25th - 75th percentile, for ecoregion reference lakes)

Total Phosphorus:	Within Expected Range
Chlorophyll-a:	Within Expected Range
Secchi Depth:	Above Expected Range



Minnesota Personal Watercraft Laws

Age restrictions for personal watercraft:

- Under 13 years old - May not operate PWC, even with an adult on board.
- 13 years old - Must either be accompanied by someone at least 21 years old, **OR** have a watercraft operator's permit plus be in continuous visual observation by someone at least 21 years old.
- 14 to 17 years old - Must either have a watercraft operator's permit **OR** be accompanied by someone at least 21 years old.

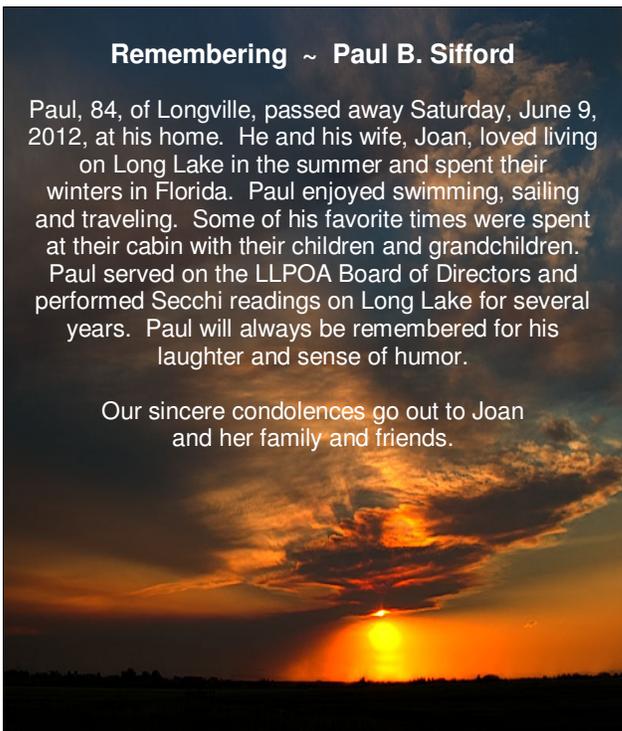
Alert! Be aware of dead trees in the lake!

Long Lake has many places where there are dead tree trunks sticking just above, or below, the water's surface. Most of these "deadheads" are on the eastern side of the lake within 30 feet or so from the shoreline and are really tough to spot. They can pose a real danger for water skiers and personal watercraft, and even to boats. Please be careful - keep your water skiers and personal watercraft a safe distance away from all shorelines.

Remembering ~ Paul B. Sifford

Paul, 84, of Longville, passed away Saturday, June 9, 2012, at his home. He and his wife, Joan, loved living on Long Lake in the summer and spent their winters in Florida. Paul enjoyed swimming, sailing and traveling. Some of his favorite times were spent at their cabin with their children and grandchildren. Paul served on the LLPOA Board of Directors and performed Secchi readings on Long Lake for several years. Paul will always be remembered for his laughter and sense of humor.

Our sincere condolences go out to Joan and her family and friends.



Friends of the North Country Trail Could Use Your Help

Did you know that we have an interstate hiking trail that passes through the Chippewa National Forest and runs less than a mile from our lake? The North Country Trail is our country's longest scenic trail and travels 4600 miles from New York to North Dakota. It intersects the Macemon Road horseshoe between Long Lake and Hwy. 200. You've probably seen the signs on Hwy. 84. Many years ago, a group of us adopted part of Hwy. 200 under the name "Friends of the North Country Trail." The section stretches two miles from the Northland Monument Company east to the Boy River. Over the years, the group has dwindled and I am looking for some volunteers. If you are willing to help a day or two a year in highway pick-up on this section, please contact me at the number below. If you're interested in more information on the trail, see the two links listed below.

Thanks so much!

Kit Arnquist
218-566-2539
(no answering machine, so please keep trying)



www.northcountrytrail.org
www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fsm9_016478.pdf

WHO'S UP FOR A TREASURE HUNT?

Once again there is hidden treasure to be found in Long Lake! The hunt starts July 4th and goes until September 1st, or until the treasure is found. Look for a small plastic container 3" around and ¾" thick. It will be gold color with a 3' fishing line attached to a golden bobber. Find the bobber and you will have found the hidden treasure - 10 pieces of gold! (Actually, 10 Canadian "loonies.")

Here are your clues!

- Don't look where last year's treasure was found, for it is not near there.
- The treasure lies in wait with ten pieces of eight, so don't wait.
- Travel over the deepest waters to find the gold.
- Dry or wet? That is your question.
- Three is a good number, but you are looking for four.
- Those who come near, BEWARE, for danger lies near.

The final clues (if the treasure hasn't been found yet) will be given out at the LLPOA Annual Meeting, so please join us on Saturday, August 11, at 9:30 am, at Salem Lutheran Church in Longville. The Loon Lady, Pam Perry, will be sharing a presentation that you won't want to miss.

If you find the hidden treasure, please contact Dick Loeffler at rjloeffler@arvig.net or call him at 218-363-2184. You will get to keep the ten pieces of gold, plus you will receive one year free membership in the LLPOA.

Good Luck and Happy Treasure Hunting! Aaarrggghh!



A note from the MN Department of Agriculture regarding another invasive species...the emerald ash borer.

Dear Lake Association Members,

Your effort in communicating how important it is to not spread aquatic invasive species is commendable. The area around your lakes should be equally protected. Trees are a huge part of the landscape along the lakeshore and the surrounding community. A tree infested with invasive species is difficult to identify in the early stages. The most recent invasive species is the emerald ash borer (EAB) which has killed millions of ash trees since 2002 when it was accidentally introduced into Michigan from China. Minnesota currently has the largest ash tree population in the U.S. Here are a few ways you can protect your trees from invasive species as much as you protect your lake:

- Don't bring any unfinished wood products out of the EAB quarantined counties of Hennepin, Ramsey, Houston or Winona.
- Don't move firewood to or from your lake home from long distances. (You typically can't see if firewood is infested or not, so why take the risk?)
- If you do need to move firewood a long distance, buy only MDA-certified firewood (look for the logo below).
- When you burn firewood, burn it all. Moving firewood from place to place provides a vehicle for unwanted pests to move to a new location.

For further information about preventing the spread of this invasive forest pest, please visit the MN Dept. of Agriculture's website at www.mda.state.mn.us or www.SaveOurAsh.net. Please spread the word about this destructive pest! Thanks for your help in keeping Minnesota's landscape healthy and native.

Charlene Gruber
Plant Protection Division, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
charlene.gruber@state.mn.us or 651-201-6249



LONG LAKE FISHING REPORT

We received a letter from one of our property owners in early May, along with a couple of photos, that prove there actually are walleyes in Long Lake. He said he has ice-fished the same area (we promised not to say where) since 2005 and had only caught northern pike, until this winter. This is great news because we can now show the DNR that it is worthwhile to keep stocking Long Lake with walleye fry - they can survive and grow here.



And by the way...the walleyes were released.
Thanks for practicing catch and release on Long Lake!



Tony Steinemann and his catch!!
February 2012

THE LOON LADY



This year's LLPOA annual meeting is on Saturday, August 11, at 9:30 am, at Salem Lutheran Church in Longville. We are featuring a special guest speaker, Pam Perry, "The Loon Lady."

Pam will tell us about the life of a loon and will answer your questions about our beautiful state bird.

Don't miss this informative presentation!

MARKER BUOYS

The Association will be setting out marker buoys again this year for your boating safety. The locations will be the same as last year, but with a few changes:

- Our volunteers will be placing three large marker buoys on the dangerous rock-littered peninsula on the NE corner of the lake. Please avoid these buoys by at least 100 feet, if possible. Some of the rocks in this location are as big as a small car and are only a couple of feet below the surface.
- Round red buoys will be placed at the Narrows and at the entrance to Monster Bay; drive between them to avoid shallow water and/or rocks.
- Small white buoys will be used to mark other hazardous rocks or shallow areas on the lake.

Please do not remove or relocate any of the buoys, they are placed there for a specific purpose - your safety!

One last note...always slow your watercraft down through the Narrows so as to create "minimum wake."

Some interesting facts about loons... (Provided to us courtesy of the Association of Cass County Lakes)

Warm weather brought "our" loons back about three weeks early. (How DID they know?) DNR reports loons wearing new transmitters returned to their breeding lakes as early as March 29 - one as far north as Big Mantrap Lake. That's about three weeks earlier than previous years. By use of transmitters, we've learned that our Minnesota loons "pool" (gather) at Lake Michigan before flying on to the Gulf of Mexico. Loons are both fresh water and salt water waterfowl, adapting readily to each.

Young loons that fly south in October spend two summers on the Gulf Coast before returning to breeding lakes in Minnesota and Wisconsin. (Therefore, it is not yet possible to know how many died as a result of the BP oil spill in the Gulf. The jury is still out on that.)

Ever wonder how the state estimates the numbers of these magnificent summer visitors? Wonder no more: Last year, the DNR reported that 312 official "loon watchers" on 325 lakes in 32 counties watched for loons and counted them and their new chicks. It is an all-volunteer force, including loon-lovers in Cass and Crow Wing Counties. Such research is funded by check-off donations to the Non-game Wildlife Fund on Minnesota income tax forms. Minnesota is home to an estimated 12,000 common loons. After spending summers with us, they leave - being snowbirds, you might say - for Lake Michigan to pool with other loons, then they take off on their long journey to the Gulf of Mexico. One of the greatest hazards they face en-route is landing on rain-slicked road surfaces thinking they are open water; they then risk being hit by vehicles.

It takes 30 days of non-stop incubation for chicks to hatch. By all means, stay away from their nests! They face enough dangers without us humans interfering in their uncommon lives.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Remaining 2012 Board of Directors Meetings

Wednesday, July 11, 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.

→→→→ IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE LONG LAKE LINK ←←←←

The Association will no longer be mailing paper copies of the Link newsletter to non-members - if you would like to continue receiving the Link, you will need to provide us with your e-mail address. As a non-member, if we don't have your e-mail address, you will receive only the spring edition of the newsletter which contains summer season start-up information. This is being done to reduce postage, printing and handling costs.

To continue receiving the Link, please send your e-mail address to Dick Loeffler at rjloeffler@arvig.net or call 218-363-2184. Better yet, join the LLPOA for just \$15.00 per year and continue receiving all issues of the Link.

LLPOA members will continue to receive all four issues of the Link as before.

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.

4th of July Boat Parade!

Decorate your pontoon or boat in red, white & blue and take part in Long Lake's annual fun event on Wednesday, July 4th.

The parade will line up on the north side of the Narrows at 2:00 pm.

Please note that this year the parade will head north from the island.

