

Spring  
2013  
Newsletter

# Long Lake Link

Long Lake Property Owners Association

[www.minnesotawaters.org/LLPOA](http://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

May 25	Poppy Fund Drive ~ VFW Post 772	Longville, Remer & Backus
"	Bake Sale ~ Young at Heart Senior Club	Longville, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
"	Book Sale ~ Friends of the Library	Library, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
"	McLions Hamburger Day ~ Longville Lions Club	Longville, 11:00 am...
May 27	Memorial Day Service ~ VFW 772 & Ladies Auxiliary	Longville Fire Hall, 9:30 am
June 1-2	Leech Lake Walleye Tournament	Leech Lake, Walker
June 5	1st Turtle Races of the season ~ Chamber of Commerce	Downtown, 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm
June 12	Turtle Races	Downtown, 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm
June 15	Classic Car Show ~ Turtle Town Cruisers	Downtown, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
"	Arts, Crafts, Music Show ~ Longville Lakes Arts Alliance	Downtown, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
"	BBQ Sandwiches ~ Longville volunteer firemen	Docksider parking lot, 11:00 am...
"	Mary Etta's famous pies ~ Chamber of Commerce	Docksider parking lot, 11:00 am...
June 19	Turtle Races	Downtown, 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm
June 22	Book & Bake Sale ~ Friends of the Library	Library, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
June 26	Turtle Races	Downtown, 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm
June 29	Turtle Town Art Fair ~ Longville Area Women of Today	Salem Lutheran Church, 9 am - 4 pm

## 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.

**From Dick Loeffler, retired LLPOA President:**

As you LLPOA members already know, Jill and I sold our wonderful home on Long Lake and are moving to Eagan, MN to be near our children and grandchildren. It was a hard choice to make, but we are happy with our decision. As I mentioned in the last Link newsletter, we did not expect our home to sell until mid-summer of this year. It sold in less than thirty days, much to our surprise. So it looks like the real estate market might finally be improving in the Longville area.

We moved out on January 21<sup>st</sup> (it was -13 degrees), and had our furniture in five different storage lockers, both in Longville and Apple Valley, until we returned to Minnesota this spring. While we were in Florida escaping the cold weather, our new home was being built in Eagan. It should be ready soon, if it isn't already, so things are working out for us.

Many of you will be seeing me several times this spring and summer as Jill and I will be returning to visit our great friends on Long Lake. I will be working to get the lake up and running in early May. And I also plan on attending the May and June LLPOA board meetings to help organize the new Board of Directors and keep the transition moving smoothly. We have many new board members and I truly believe this will be an easy transition and good things will continue to happen on Long Lake in the future.

I am honored to have served as your LLPOA President and I am very thankful for all the devoted members in the LLPOA - you made my time as your President easy and memorable.

Best wishes,

Dick

**IMPORTANT CHANGES REGARDING THE BUOYS ON THE LAKE THIS YEAR!!**

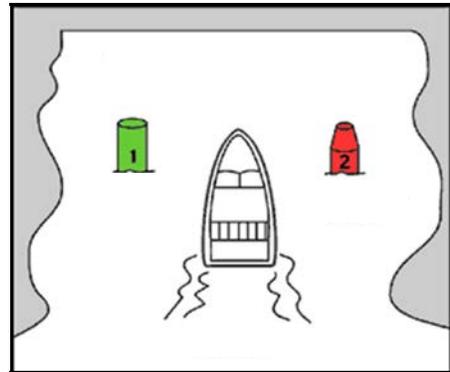
We want all of our members to be aware of some important changes to the marking buoys on the lake this year. These changes are being made to increase everyone's safety (and decrease prop repair costs!) while boating, so we encourage everyone to make themselves aware of the buoy locations and meanings.

Red and green buoys will be used to mark channels in the following areas:

- ◆ The Narrows
- ◆ The entrance to Monster Bay
- ◆ On the northern end of the lake:
  - ◇ Between the eastern shoreline and the grass island nearest that shore
  - ◇ Just north of the grass islands

**The easiest way to remember is:**

**"Red and green, stay between."**



**NOTE:** Any white buoys you see on the lake are marking rocks or shallow spots - keep your distance!

## 2013 TREASURE HUNT

This year's treasure hunt will begin on fishing opener weekend in May. The hidden treasure will be lying in wait for those adventurous souls who seek reward.

The following clues will give you the information needed to find the golden treasure box that contains coins, along with one year free membership in the LLPOA.

- CLUE #1: Pieces of eight lie in wait  
 CLUE #2: Look high and low  
 CLUE #3: Find the golden orb  
 CLUE #4: Long Lake once had seven, but now there are eight  
 CLUE #5: Once it was covered with H2O  
 CLUE #6: One is rock, four are normal, two are not  
 CLUE #7: Where the grass grows, there is one that is not alive  
 CLUE #8: Beware as you approach for there are rocks to avoid. The orb lies in wait in plain sight - on land where few have walked.

The last clue (#9) will be given out at the Annual Meeting on August 10th; and if the treasure hasn't been found yet, it will also be published in the fall edition of the Link.



## DID YOU KNOW?

Minnesota is home to the source of the mighty Mississippi River - whose headwaters are pictured above. The river begins at Lake Itasca in northern Minnesota, just southwest of Bemidji. It takes 90 days for the river to complete its 2,552 mile journey to the Gulf of Mexico. The Mississippi ranks as the 14<sup>th</sup> longest river in the world, with its sister river, the Missouri, right behind it at 15th.

Itasca State Park is only 59 miles, or a one hour and fifteen minute drive, from Longville. It's a beautiful park in all four seasons, so if you ever feel like taking a break from the lake, check it out!

**"Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land."**

Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*, 1949

The Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation, Cass County Environmental Services and the Association of Cass County Lakes worked jointly to produce the Cass County Shoreland Homeowner's Guide to Lake Stewardship. The guide reminds us that along with the rights and privileges of owning, and living on, shoreline property comes the responsibility to protect, improve and enhance the quality of the water for our enjoyment and that of future generations. It provides basic information on good lake stewardship which will keep all our lakes healthy. Since spring is coming (finally), we thought we would share some of the information contained in the Guide pertaining to yard and shoreline care and use. What we do, or don't do, on our shoreland property has a significant impact on lake quality.

- Curb pollution at the source: reduce phosphorus and other pollutants
  - ◇ Apply fertilizer sparingly and use zero-phosphorus lawn fertilizer (buy a brand that has a middle number of zero)
  - ◇ Keep grass clippings, leaves and washed up aquatic material out of the lake
  - ◇ Locate fire pits at least 50 feet away from the lake and dispose of ashes properly
  - ◇ Pick up pet waste in the yard and dispose of properly - it contains phosphorus
  - ◇ Use phosphorus-free household products - use bio-degradable, non-toxic alternatives
  - ◇ Practice low-impact boating: don't spill fuel in the water, boat slowly, keep your motor well-tuned
  - ◇ Inspect your boat to avoid transporting aquatic invasive species
  - ◇ Inspect and maintain your septic system to keep it operating properly
- Reduce runoff (stormwater)
  - ◇ Reduce the size of your lawn; mow to no more than 2-3" high; water deeply, but infrequently and use lake water
  - ◇ Maintain natural vegetation; when clearing your lot, minimize the removal of wooded areas, trees and low growing shrubs
  - ◇ Landscape your yard near roads and driveways to direct runoff away from the lake
  - ◇ Consider leaving the ice ridge alone unless it's impeding your use of the lake
  - ◇ Use precaution during construction; minimize land alteration around your projects
  - ◇ The best way to control shoreline erosion is to preserve or restore native shoreline vegetation

These are obviously only a few of the suggestions taken from the Guide. Those members of the LLPOA who receive the Link by e-mail will find the Guide as a PDF attachment for further reference. Thank you to Paula West, Executive Director of the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation, for writing the Guide and sharing it with us.

**NOTE:** Dick Loeffler received the following e-mail from former Minnesota State Senator, Darril Wegscheid, this past February. Senator Wegscheid signed his e-mail "Minnesotan who treasures our outdoor heritage." Though it is strongly worded, his letter points out that all of us have to step up and do our part in preventing any Aquatic Invasive Species from entering our lakes.

**Three years ago, there were 21 lakes infected with AIS in Minnesota - today there are more than 100!**

**Subject: AIS - We need to question the Underlying Assumptions and Attitudes - are we "Fiddling while Rome burns?"**

Good day – and I hope I can make this point clearly enough:

I feel that I am as desperate as most anyone to stop zebra mussels, and thus, I offer this to ALL for your consideration.

At present, it appears that our total mindset and our collective public/political thinking to stop AIS spread is that:

“the informed public will behave in such manner as to voluntarily take responsibility, and that all will work hard to be 100% thoughtful and cognizant of the resource.”

Consider THOSE hopeful tenants and perspectives, and ponder those best of all hopes and wishes, and then reflect on and consider:

**So far this year, fourteen cars have already gone through the ice (with three lives lost) on just Lake Minnetonka – and all of that action despite public warnings, alerts, signage and ‘common sense.’ And those actions are truly dealing with “LIFE AND DEATH” situations.**

So why, and how, do those lofty “enforcement perspectives and values” offer us sufficient hope to stop AIS from spreading further in MN – without tougher consequences, clearer and tighter controls, more comprehensive inspection and treatments, and the required intense public outcry to make it happen?

If fourteen vehicles have risked their LIVES to violate all of those principles, and three have lost, what VOLUNTARY public mindset can hold any hope for stopping AIS?

I repeat a pet phrase of mine, “This is NOT a game warden issue, but rather, this is clearly a ‘smallpox-like’ epidemic (aquademic) affecting our economy, our environmental future and our very values. An infestation that needs clearly epidemiology approaches and resources to save the Minnesota economy and the values represented by our tourism, and more importantly, an entire array of our citizen-valued endeavors.”

Thinking has to shift, since we now have virtually EVERY large Minnesota body of recreational water infested – and that reality also greatly elevated the odds for any remaining waters to become infected. Lake Winnie was “announced” just recently to have zebra mussels, based on sampling from last summer! So, for months, boats have moved in and out of Winnie, and possibly carried veligers or more, while we took some six months to get a diagnosis. And, that discovery likely confirms that the lake has a “mature and reproducing infestation” – which scientifically would have been present for no less than one previous season.

Seriously, AIS (zebra mussels specifically) are an “aquademic” – and that needs cross-functional and cross-technology approaches.

All the “training and education and signage” has NOT stopped fourteen cars from plunging into Lake Minnetonka (and costing three lives). How could/can those similar approaches and related game warden thinking/private fishing rights protection possibly stop the spread of zebra mussels?

We need a LOT more from all fronts – Chambers of Commerce, tourism, fishermen, muskie and bass groups – EVERYONE!

Sincerely, this has to ELEVATE!

Darril Wegscheid  
Former Minnesota State Senator  
Minnesotan who treasures our outdoor heritage.

**LONG LAKE ICE-ON/ICE-OUT DATES**

OK, not to add insult to injury after this long, tough winter, but the editor thought you might be interested in seeing Long Lake's freeze and thaw dates history. The latest ice-out date recorded was May 5<sup>th</sup> back in 1996; if we don't set a new record for ice-out this year, it'll be a surprise.

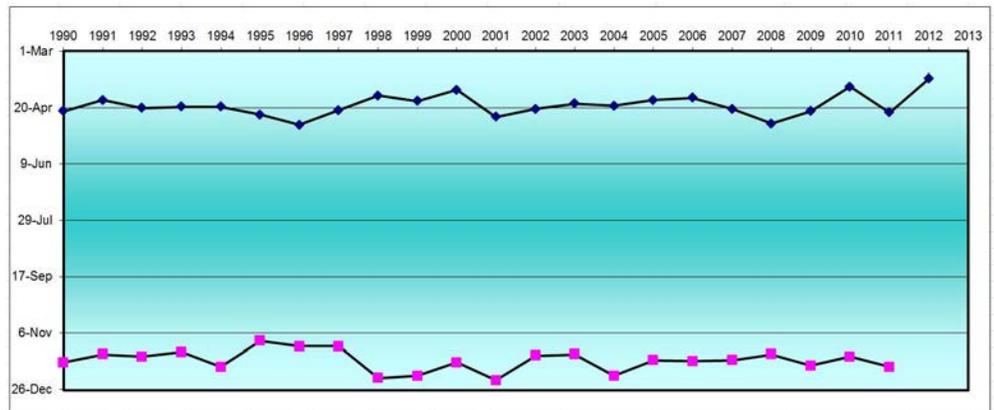
The following data was submitted by property owner Kit Arnquist. Kit and her family have recorded the ice-out dates since 1974. I am only including dates from the past twenty years here, but if you are interested in seeing all the records, you can see them on the LLPOA website <http://www.minnesotawaters.org/group/longlake/welcome>. You'll find the "Ice-on Ice-out Dates" link on the left side of the Home Page. Here is Kit's story:

"Since 1974, our family has had a contest guessing when Long Lake's ice would go out. The winner each year gets their name and the actual date burned onto a plaque. There's no monetary reward, but with a win comes a good deal of bragging rights! Since I moved into our family cabin in 1979, I've also recorded the freezing dates."

LAKE FREEZING DATES: "Depending on wind, the lake may totally freeze overnight, or in spurts. There are many years when it freezes over and then opens up again. The dates below are always for the final freezing date. Our house looks out on most of the northern 2/3 of the lake. The other end of our road also passes by the very northern section. A local highway passes by the southern end of the lake. There have been times when one end of the lake has frozen over, but the other has not. That's why all parts of the lake are checked before the date is final. Sometimes I call someone on the other end. For us, about 95% needs to be frozen. Please keep in mind there are probably some errors; we weren't doing this as a scientific study, but just for fun."

ICE-OUT DATES: "I do the ice-out the same way as the freezing date: check all ends of the lake and look for almost all the ice to be gone."

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ICE-OUT</u>	<u>ICE-ON</u>
1993	4/19	11/2
1994	4/19	12/6
1995	4/26	11/13
1996	5/5	11/18
1997	4/22	11/18
1998	4/9	12/16
1999	4/14	12/14
2000	4/4	12/2
2001	4/28	12/18
2002	4/21	11/26
2003	4/16	11/25
2004	4/18	12/14
2005	4/13	11/30
2006	4/11	12/1
2007	4/21	11/30
2008	5/4	11/25
2009	4/23	12/5
2010	4/1	11/27
2011	4/24	12/6
2012	3/25	n/a



This graph shows the dates of ice-on (pink/bottom bar) and ice-out (blue/top bar) from 1990 through 2012. It allows us to see deviations from the "average" dates.

Thank you to our webmaster, Tom Sorensen, for putting this graph together for us.



The winter of  
2012-13...

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS**

**Saturday, May 18th @10:00 am - note revised date!**

Saturday, June 8th @ 10:00 am  
 Saturday, July 13th @ 10:00 am  
 Saturday, August 10th @ 9:00 am \*\*  
 Saturday, September 14th @ 10:00 am

\*\* Annual meeting

All meetings are held at Salem Lutheran Church in Longville



Hoar frost and snowmobile tracks on Long Lake ~ March 2013.  
Photo by Meg Voigtschild

**Some fun facts about Minnesota...**

The name Minnesota comes from the Dakota Indian name "Minisota," which means sky-tinted water.

Minnesota contains the northernmost town in the lower 48 states: Angle Inlet, at 49.22° north latitude.

Minnesota's waters flow outward in three directions: north to Hudson Bay in Canada, east to the Atlantic Ocean and south to the Gulf of Mexico.

Voyageurs National Park in northern Minnesota is the largest water-based park in the National Park System.

**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.

If you would like to continue receiving the Link, please send your e-mail address to Meg Voigtschild at meg@msireresults.com or call 612-805-5995. Better yet, join the LLPOA for just \$15.00 per year and continue receiving all four issues of the Link.

**LLPOA members will continue to receive all issues just as in the past.**

**REMINDER:**

The membership/dues form (for new members and renewals) is included in this newsletter. Send the form, along with your 2013 annual dues (\$15.00 per year), to LLPOA, PO Box 292, Longville, MN 56655.