

Spring 2012 Newsletter

Long Lake Link

Long Lake Property Owners Association

www.minnesotawaters.org/LLPOA

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Long Lake Link

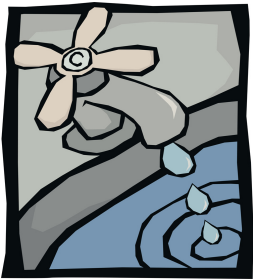
PO Box 292

Longville, MN 56655

Lake ID: 11-0142-00

Upcoming Area Events

May 5	Annual Run/Ride Around Woman
May 12	Fishing opener!
May 26	Longville Area Women of Today garage sale VFW Poppy Fund Drive McLions Hamburger Day
June 6	First turtle race of the summer!
June 16	Car show; turkey BBQ & pie social
June 30	Turtle Town Art Fair
July 4	Celebrate all day in Longville
July 28	Longville Summerfest
August 11	LLPOA Annual Meeting



WELL WATER TESTING

The LLPOA will be sponsoring a well water testing program this spring or early summer. 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. The Board of Directors will be working out the details of the program at their meeting on May 8th.



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

What a crazy winter and spring so far! This winter gave us thin ice and poor fishing, but I did find some good new crappie and northern pike ice fishing holes in January. The evening bite was good between 5 and 7 pm for the crappies. The average size crappie was 9 to 11 inches long. All my fishing was done in 19 to 22 feet of water, and the fish were all within one foot of the bottom. I found that a depth finder was crucial for finding the fish. I pulled out the largest bass I've ever caught in Long Lake this winter, a 5-3/4 pound largemouth. He was caught near the north islands on a crappie minnow - and after having his picture taken, he was returned to the lake.



We had a warm winter with record high temps and little snow. The ice went out on March 26, which is very early for our lake. I got off to a good start spring crappie fishing and, wham, we get 7 plus inches of heavy wet snow on April 8th and 9th. Prior to the cold snap and the snow, the crappies could be seen near the surface, but only in areas where the water was still 20+ feet deep. Once the water warms up, the crappies will move into the shallow areas of the lake and fishing will improve.

I believe that our lack of moisture last summer, fall and winter will be a problem for boating on our lake this season. All the rock piles will be closer to the surface, so please be careful this fishing season.

As always, we are looking for fishing reports, especially regarding walleye catches. We need these reports to give to the DNR to prove that there are walleye in our lake and that they are doing fine. E-mail your fishing report to rjloeffler@arvig.net.

Shoreline Restoration with Initiative Foundation's Healthy Lakes Partnership

Five LLPOA members attended Initiative Foundation classes during the winter of 2009. As a result, our Association received a \$5000 grant from the Foundation to spend as it saw fit. We are happy to report that all the monies have been spent on shoreline restoration projects on Long Lake.

Each restoration project had to be approved and inspected by Cass County Environmental Services. The largest project involved massive erosion from a clear-cut lot and improper culver tiles being placed under a road without Cass County approval. All aspects of this project were corrected and the erosion has been halted.

Thank you to the property owners that did the restorations, for all their hard work and devotion to Long Lake's water quality!

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 either by phone or e-mail. If you're interested in more information on the trail, see the two links listed below.

Thanks so much!

Kit Arnquist
kitntim@means.net
218-566-2352, ext. 2053 (days) or 218-566-2539 (evenings)

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



New required aquatic invasive species rules decal for boaters now available

A new required decal is now available for Minnesota boaters to help remind them of the state's aquatic invasive species laws, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources announced today. The free decals are available from DNR offices, deputy registrar offices where licenses are sold, large sporting goods shops and DNR watercraft inspectors and conservation officers. The decals will also be included in envelopes with new and renewal watercraft licenses mailed from the DNR. The decal should be attached to all types of watercraft including canoes, kayaks and duckboats before launching on, entering into, or operating on any Minnesota waters.

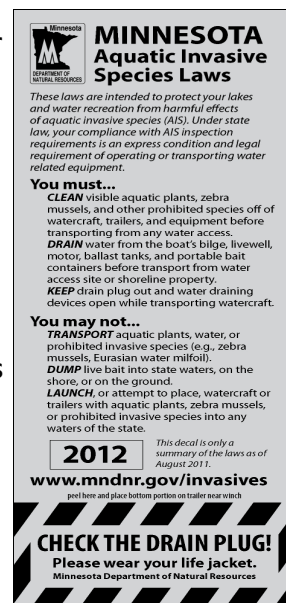
The two-piece, gray-and-black decals detail new state laws that watercraft users must follow in order to avoid spreading aquatic invasive species such as zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil and spiny waterfleas. The decal must be attached to the watercraft, but state law does not specify where that must occur. DNR officials recommend displaying it where it can be read and can be shown to an officer upon request. However, the decal does not need to be in view of the operator (as is the case with the state's personal watercraft decal), and it does not need to be placed near the watercraft registration decals. If a watercraft owner does not want to stick the decal on the boat because it is an antique wooden boat or other unique boat, the decal can be attached or laminated to an object like a luggage tag and kept in the boat.

There are two parts to the decal. Watercraft owners and operators must display the top portion of the decal on all watercraft prior to launching on, entering into, or operating on any waters of Minnesota. The second portion of the decal is intended to be placed on the winch post of watercraft trailers or in another area to remind boaters to remove the boat's drain plug when leaving a water access area as required by state law. It also reminds boaters to replace the plug before launching.

This decal is not required by law. There is no penalty in effect, but conservation officers can issue a warning for not displaying the decal. After Aug. 1, 2014, it will be a petty misdemeanor for boaters who fail to display the decal on their watercraft.

More information about aquatic invasive species laws is available at http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquatic_qa.html.

(This article was reproduced with permission from the Pine Cone Press-Citizen, April 10, 2012 edition.)



Eewww - tick season has arrived early!

A winter with a lack of snow usually makes for a "ticky" spring. Cass County is one of the heavier infested counties in Minnesota. Tick-borne diseases are increasing at an alarming rate, so please take some precautions when outside.

Prevention: 1) wear light-colored clothing so ticks will be more visible; 2) create a barrier to ticks by tucking your pants into your socks or boots; 3) wear long-sleeved shirts and tuck the shirts into your pants; 4) use a repellent containing DEET or permethrin; 5) after being outdoors in tick habitat, get out of your clothes immediately, do a complete body check, shower and vigorously towel dry; and 6) wash your clothes immediately so as not to spread any ticks around your living area.

Tick Removal: The risk of contracting a tick-borne disease is small if ticks are removed soon after they become attached. Deer ticks must remain attached one to two days in order to transmit Lyme disease, and as little as one day for other diseases. Not all ticks are infected, but prompt removal of infected ticks can prevent illness. Follow these steps to safely remove an attached tick: 1) use a tweezers to grasp the tick close to its head; 2) gently and S-L-O-W-L-Y pull the tick straight outward; 3) to avoid contact with the bacteria, do not squeeze the tick's body; 4) wash the area and apply an antiseptic to the bite; and 5) watch for early possible signs of Lyme disease, including rash, muscle or joint stiffness, fatigue, swollen lymph nodes or headache.

Check and re-check for ticks whenever you are in tick-infested areas!

The Exotic Zebra Mussel by Amy J. Benson

Editor's note: *We've all heard, and been warned, about the invasion of zebra mussels into our lakes and the damage they can cause. I thought our property owners might like to learn about how these mollusks reached Minnesota waters in the first place. I'm sure you will all agree that their ability to survive and spread is truly alarming.*

The word "exotic" conjures up thoughts of faraway places where strange animals inhabit sun-drenched islands. But in the biological sciences realm, this word has come to be associated with unwelcome visitors to our shores. Over the past 500 years, more than 4,500 foreign species, including many harmful plants, vertebrates, invertebrates, and pathogens, have established populations in the United States. One of these newcomers, the zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*), poses widespread ecological and economic threats. This small fresh-water mollusk originated in the Black, Caspian, and Azov seas region of the former Soviet Union. By the late 18th and early 19th centuries, the construction of extensive canal systems enabled the spread of zebra mussels to almost all major drainages of Europe.



Zebra mussels have attached to this young Higgins eye pearly mussel, an endangered species found in the Mississippi River.
Photo by USFWS

In the United States, the first account of an established population occurred in 1988 from Lake St. Clair, located between Lake Huron and Lake Erie. By 1990, zebra mussels had been found in all five Great Lakes. Over the next two years they made their way out of the Great Lakes through canals and into the Illinois, Hudson, Arkansas, Cumberland, Hudson, Mississippi, Ohio, and Tennessee Rivers. As of 2011, the following states had reported zebra mussels within, or in waters adjacent to, their borders: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. The mussels have also been documented in over 600 lakes and reservoirs in the United States.

Zebra mussels probably entered the Great Lakes when ships arriving from Europe discharged ballast water containing a variety of aquatic organisms, including zebra mussel larvae. The species rapid dispersal throughout the Great Lakes and major river systems was due to its ability to attach to boats navigating these waters. Zebra mussels have an even more troubling characteristic: the ability to stay alive out of water for several days under moist and reasonably cool conditions. Thus, overland dispersal is another possible means of range expansion. An increasing number of small lakes near, but not connected to, the Great Lakes are now inhabited by zebra mussels. Beginning in 1993, many trailered boats crossing into California and other western states were found to have zebra mussels attached to their hulls. These mussels, discovered at agricultural inspection stations by informed officials, were removed before the boats were allowed to continue.

Zebra mussels can grow to a maximum length of about 1.9 inches and live 4 to 5 years. Their common name was inspired by their dark, zebra-like stripes. Although they are freshwater animals, zebra mussels have recently been found living in brackish water with salinity levels of 1 to 2 parts per thousand. Females generally reproduce in their second year. More than 40,000 eggs can be laid in a reproductive cycle and up to 1 million in a spawning season. The larvae emerge within 3 to 5 days after the eggs are fertilized and are free-swimming for up to a month. Dispersal of larvae is normally passive downstream. The mussels begin their juvenile stage by settling to the bottom, where they crawl about by means of a foot searching for a suitable firm surface or substratum upon which to anchor. Although hard, calcareous materials, such as limestone, concrete, and the shells of other mussels are preferred substrates, they will attach to various surfaces, including water intake valves and pipes, and have even been found on vegetation. Juvenile zebra mussels attach themselves by an external organ called a byssus, which consists of many threads that adhere to a surface. Adults zebra mussels filter about 2.1 pints of water per day while feeding primarily on algae.



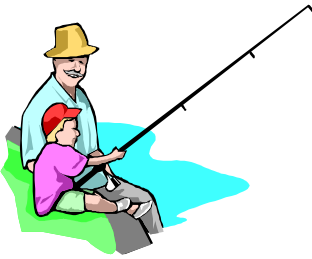
Zebra mussels scooped from Lake Pepin where they form a deep carpet on the lake's bottom. Photo by Minnesota DNR

Most of the biological impacts of zebra mussels in North America have yet to be realized. However, they have the potential to harm native mussels by interfering with their feeding, growth, movement, respiration, and reproduction. Unfortunately, research shows zebra mussels prefer to attach to the shells of live mussels rather than to dead ones or to stones. Some native mussels have been found with more than 10,000 zebra mussels attached to them.

The rapid spread of both mussel species has researchers working together to help track this invading exotic. Many government and private organizations are cooperating with U.S. Geological Survey researchers at the SE Ecological Science Center in Gainesville, FL, by reporting information on new sightings. This information becomes part of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Species Information System, which distributes general information available to government agencies, private groups, and the public. The system also provides sound scientific information to State and Federal agencies responsible for the management of public lands. It is available at <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/taxgroup/mollusks/zebramussel/>. By working together, it may be possible to control the continued spread of non-native pests like the zebra mussel.

(Amy J. Benson is a fishery biologist at the U.S. Geological Survey's Southeast Ecological Science Center in Gainesville, FL.)

LONG LAKE FISHING REPORT



The Association is continually working to improve the fishing on our lake. We had 3,700 perch fingerlings stocked in the lake early this spring in hopes of increasing the forage for our walleye population. The fingerlings, 4 to 10 inches long, were provided by Goeden Fisheries of Alexandria, MN.

Our Minnesota Department of Natural Resources "Lake Management Plan" calls for no more walleye fingerlings to be stocked in our lake, and only walleye fry stocked in 2013 and 2015. As stated in the plan, "If a 2015 assessment does not show a significant contribution to the walleye population from fry or (previous) fingerling stocking, walleye stocking should not be continued." This is the reason we continue working on improving forage for the walleye in Long Lake.

Our thanks to Roger Mitby for coordinating with the Minnesota DNR, and the fishery, in getting the fingerlings stocked.

LOON LADY



This years LLPOA annual meeting on Saturday, August 11, will feature a special guest speaker - Pam Perry, "The Loon Lady." Pam will tell us about the life of a loon and answer your questions about our beautiful state bird.

On a more serious note...

The DNR is studying the causes of loon mortality. If you find a dead loon on the lake or shoreline, please do the following:

1. If the loon remains are starting to decay, bury them. If the loon is still in good condition (the fresher the better), put the body in a plastic bag and chill it down on ice or in a freezer as soon as possible. Note the date and the location of your discovery, and any other observations that you may think pertinent.
2. Call the Brainerd Non-game Wildlife Office at 218-828-2228 or 218-833-8728, or send an e-mail to Pam Perry at pamperry@state.mn.us, to report your find. Be sure to leave your name and contact information.

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.

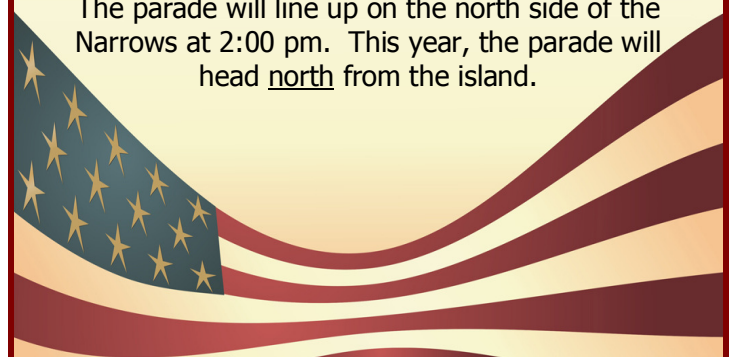
Please do not remove or relocate any of the buoys, they are placed there for a specific purpose - public safety!

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

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. This year, the parade will head north from the island.



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

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Zone 8	Duane Schock	218-363-2211

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.

QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT BE ASKING ABOUT THE LLPOA

Q. What does the Lake Association do with our dues?

A. Your dues pay for many things, including:

- Water testing/water quality evaluation five times a year with the help of volunteer water sample collectors
- Annual meeting signs, ads and refreshments
- Newsletter printing, labels and postage; all labor is donated
- Association membership in county/state organizations; meeting participation time is volunteered
- Providing a financial cushion should any legal issues arise concerning the lake
- Future fish stocking, should we need to do it again
- Marker buoys and their maintenance; all the labor to place and remove the buoys each season is donated

Q. Where do the ideas for LLPOA initiatives come from?

A. All major initiatives come from member surveys; other ideas come from Board members. The Association's mission is to work for the benefit of the lake.

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 \$\$

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.