

Fall
2014
Newsletter

Long Lake Link

Long Lake Property Owners Association

www.minnesotawaters.org/longlakepropertyowners

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

Important Thank You Notes!

In case you've ever wondered how those marker buoys mysteriously reappear every spring, and then disappear again in the fall, you can thank Ken Johnson, John Olsen, Bob Saalborn and Wayne Voigtschild for their efforts.
(And pulling the buoys out in the fall when they're covered with slippery green slime isn't easy!)

Our eight Zone Directors hand-delivered the new member directories to every single property owner on the lake - that was awesome!

Duane Schock provided the posts for the AIS signs and helped with the construction and installation of those signs along the boat launch road this summer. We also appreciate the property owners along Wayward Trail who allowed us to place the signs in their yards - we couldn't have done it without them.

We now have a new website hosted by Minnesota Waters. Our webmaster, Tom Sorensen, monitored the transfer of content and made sure the site was up and running properly. We appreciate all the time and effort he put into getting this project completed.

Please note our new web address on the Link banner at the top of this page.

UPCOMING AREA EVENTS

November 8	Deer Hunter's Dinner	St. Edward's Catholic Church, Longville
November 15	"Does Only" Holiday Champagne Breakfast	Patrick's (9:30 am - noon)
November 29	Free Photos with Santa	Common Grounds (2:30 - 4:30 pm)
	Official Longville Christmas tree lighting; free horse & wagon rides, hot dogs, hot chocolate & cookies	Downtown Longville (4:00 - 6:00 pm)
December 6	Boutique & Bake Sale	St. Edward's (9:00 am - 1:00 pm)
December 7	Holiday Concert	Salem Lutheran Church (4:00 - 6:00 pm)
December 12	Wine & Cheese Reception/Open House	Longville Arts Center (4:00 - 6:00 pm)
December 13	Cookie Walk	St. Edward's (10:00 am - 1:00 pm)
February 7	Ice Bocce Tournament	Patrick's on Girl Lake

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.

Greetings from Your President

In my first year as President of the Long Lake Property Owners Association, I am happy to report that we made good progress on all of the initiatives we established for 2014. This included managing the buoy program on the lake, water quality sampling and reporting, development and delivery of a new LLPOA directory, launching an AIS awareness and prevention program, initiating a membership drive and taking actions designed to improve the "value" we all receive from being members of the LLPOA.

The buoys on the lake have definitely reduced the frequency and cost of boat prop repairs for property owners, myself included. Water sampling and Secchi readings validate a very positive trend in the lake water quality. The clarity of the water on Long Lake has improved significantly from a low in 2000 of around 13 feet to its current range of 22 to 27 feet. We developed and installed AIS prevention signs on the road to the boat landing, and at the boat landing itself. We published an AIS education brochure and hand-carried it, along with a new directory, to every property owner on the lake. We initiated an active "lost and found" e-mail communication channel which has helped members find lost items such as water skis, dock sections, and more.

As indicated above, protecting Long Lake from aquatic invasive species (AIS) is the Board's major, and most challenging, initiative. **Eleven more area lakes were added to the list of infected lakes in 2014.** There are three aspects to this initiative that impact our success. The first is to increase awareness among property owners and those launching watercraft at all launch points on how to prevent AIS from entering our lake. The second element of our success is dependent on all property owners working together to practice what we've learned. To accomplish this, we will continue working on expanding membership in 2015. Finally, we have initiated communications with Cass County to request additional monies to fund our AIS prevention efforts on Long Lake. All of these actions are designed to positively impact recreation, fishing and property values on the lake.

My personal thanks to the Board, to the Zone Directors, and to all of you for your past and continued support.

Happy Holidays!

Wayne Voigtschild

Ranger Rick's Fall 2014 Fishing Report

Fishing for crappie and other panfish on Long Lake has been quite good this fall. The average size of the fish caught have been increasing continuously over the last few years, a good sign of a healthy lake. Consistent with the seasons, they moved into deeper water over the late summer and fall, with the best results reported in 12 to 15 feet of water on the drop-offs. Whether using artificial or live bait, fisherman generally reported good results.

Walleye fishing continues to be a challenge on Long Lake due to the clarity of the lake. The old-timers that talk about the big ones they have caught over the years seem to always have one thing in common...they caught them at night. The walleye and perch stocking program we have had on Long Lake over the last few years has not significantly improved walleye fishing, leading the DNR to conclude that Long Lake is not conducive to continued walleye propagation. This is not to say that there are no "lunkers" out there; I believe they are there, but catching them may require some serious sleep deprivation.

Most of the northern pike caught seemed to be of a smaller size this year. The good news is that small ones become big ones (hopefully), so the future looks bright. We did have a personal encounter with a large northern while pan fishing recently...but we lost the battle. We figured he was attracted to my grandson's bobber - which he swallowed whole and then proceeded to snap the line with one very large bite.

In summary, fishing has been good and the size of the fish caught appear to be increasing. The trend is good for us, and for future generations to come. We can attribute a large part of this to an increasing number of fisherman who are actively practicing "catch and release." For those of you practicing catch and release, we thank you. For those who want to learn more about safe catch and release, we will talk more about it in future reports. Good luck ice fishing this winter!



MINUTES FROM THE LLPOA ANNUAL MEETING ON 8/9/14

LLPOA President Wayne Voigtschild opened up the meeting at 9:30 am by welcoming everyone; he briefly reviewed the agenda and then introduced the morning's guest speaker, Jeff Forrester, Executive Director of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates.

Jeff's talk centered around AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species): How it impacts us and the work that is being done to prevent the spread throughout Minnesota. Jeff gave background on Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates.

- Focus on education
- What we can do to prevent it
- Understanding the economic impact
- Investigating available grant monies
- Emphasized to us that education is key
- Challenged us by asking, "How do we leave the 'lake' in a better position for our kids and grandchildren?"
- Talked about their work with COLA (Coalition of Lake Associations)

Jeff finished his discussion with an invitation for each of us to join the Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates and distributed information about how to do so. He can be reached at 952-854-1317.

Jerry Lerom, past LLPOA President, rose and addressed the group. Jerry is a member of our Association which is part of COLA (Coalition of Lake Associations). He explained the additional connection with the Association of Cass County Lakes and the need to have a county-wide protection plan against AIS. Cass County receives approximately \$550,000 for AIS prevention per year and he outlined how our Association can submit a plan and request a portion of the money.

Reports were given:

- Treasurer: Meg Voigtschild
- Lake water testing: Bob Alley
- Loon monitoring: Bob Alley/Wayne Voigtschild
- July Board meeting minutes: Paul Reinke

Brief discussions were held on:

- Delivery of informational door hangers, including 2014 LLPOA Member Directory
- Installation of temporary signs on the road to the public boat landing
- Plans for installation of permanent signs on the landing access road
- Improving communications
- July 4th boat parade
- Long Lake Link
- Discussion on buoys
- Signage at the Narrows
- Association website

Wayne acknowledged the great attendance at the meeting and thanked our guest speaker. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.

NEXT YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 8TH, 2015. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

REMEMBERING...

Victor Allen "Buck" Buchanan (May 1, 1923 - August 26, 2014)

Buck and his family built a cabin on the north end of Long Lake in the fall of 1961. They spent many weekends, summers and some winter trips enjoying the many activities the lake offers. In 1979, Buck sold the cabin to his daughter Kit, but still spent time on the lake fishing, relaxing on the beach, or best of all, taking a cocktail cruise on the pontoon. Buck's last visit was a year ago when the whole family gathered on Long Lake to celebrate his 90th birthday.

Buck is survived by his wife, Marian; daughter, Kit (Tim) Arnquist; sons, Mark (Barbara) Buchanan and Jay (Robin) Buchanan; grandchildren, Kate (Zach) Lee, Lucas (Amy) Buchanan, Matt (Josselyn) Buchanan, Scott Buchanan, and Brenton Buchanan; great-grandchildren, Manny Jingco, Claire Lee, Oliver Lee and Brenna Buchanan. Every one of them was at the campfire on Long Lake the day of his funeral!

Kenneth Paul Johnson

Ken Johnson, age 72, of Plymouth, passed away on August 26, 2014. Ken is survived by his wife, Diane; children, Vicki (Rocky) Johnson, Valerie (Darron) Counselman, Scott (Kayla) Johnson; five grandchildren; one great-grandson; and many other relatives and friends. Ken was preceded in death by his parents, Harold and Esther Johnson; and sister, Phyllis Johnson.

Ken really loved his time spent on Long Lake; he and Diane have had a cabin on the lake since 1971.

ANOTHER MEMORABLE 4TH OF JULY BOAT PARADE!!



The "Fall and Rise" of Long Lake

Long lake is a pristine, 926 acre lake with 14.83 miles of shoreline. It is located in a highly seasonal area where the population in winter drops below 200, but swells to over 5,000 during the summer months. Long Lake is considered a "Class 25 lake" by the DNR, which means it is deep, clear and is characterized as having an irregular shape. Activities on the lake include fishing, waterskiing, wakeboarding, swimming, canoeing, kayaking, boating, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, hiking, bird watching, and more. For those of us who have only been on the lake a short time, it is hard to image the lake being any different than it is today. If you're like me, you have an interest in knowing more about the history of this area that we have all come to love.

Long Lake was a very different place as recently as 1904, when Longville was established as a logging town by Jim Long, a supervisor at the Northland Pine Company. The company set up seven logging camps in the area, with 125 men in each camp. Logs were cut from the surrounding area and hauled by ox teams to the lake. Long Lake was used as a waterway to float logs into Longville. A railroad was built from Long Lake to Cross Lake in 1905, with two wood burning steam engines making an average of three trips a day each carrying logs. It was a time when big pines were commonplace and were considered by many to be an inexhaustible resource. With the depletion of the big pines, the last load of logs left Long Lake in the summer of 1909, leaving the lake and the surrounding area to begin a long period of recovery.

There is a lot of area history after 1909 that we could talk about as the town of Longville developed, but the focus of this article is to share how Long Lake grew into its current status with 270 property owners. In researching the lake's history, I had the opportunity to interview Warren Macemon, son of Herbert and Nora Macemon, two of the early residents on Long Lake. Herb and Nora purchased a resort on the north end of Long Lake in 1946 that consisted of a lodge, six rustic cabins and roughly half a mile of shoreline. According to the Macemons, there were only three families living between The Narrows and the north end of the lake at the time they purchased the resort. That left me wondering why the lake had not become an attraction to more people during those early years.



Fuller Sawmill on Long Lake in 1930
(Taken from Camp O' My Dreams dock)

To answer that question, I interviewed Daisy Manders, granddaughter of the late Henry Manders. Henry was the local carpenter in the early 1900s in Longville and was responsible for building many of the buildings in the area. I learned during the interview that Long Lake was not always the beautiful, serene lake we know today. Rather, it was a target of intense logging activity and was clear-cut by logging crews between 1905 and 1909, rendering it a barren landscape filled with the leftover stumps of once towering virgin forests that had stood in the area.

Over the course of time, nature began the arduous task of repairing the surrounding landscape with new tree growth, consisting of both hardwoods and conifers. Even though the land was scarred, Long Lake was a good fishing lake. With the return of tree growth came the resorts and fishing camps on the lake, providing visitors an opportunity to catch fish and get a true "up north" experience in a rustic outdoor environment. The first of these was Gitchie Gumme Resort, which was opened in 1910

and operated by Margaret Culhane. A few years later, in 1917, Al Schafman and Jeanne Burroughs opened Oak Grove Lodge on the west shore of the lake, which had access to both Long and Kego lakes. Fish Camp opened in 1920 on the south end of the lake and was operated by the Manders family. Fish Camp was later renamed Deer Trail Resort, which is still operating on the lake today. Several other resorts and camps sprung up as well, including Long Lake Lodge, Cozy Lodge, The Eagles Nest Resort, Sands Resort (later renamed Breezeway Resort) and Camp O' My Dreams, which is also still an active resort.

Fast forward 25 years and that brings us to 1946 when Herb Macemon purchased a resort on the north end of Long Lake, along with a half mile of shoreline. Macemon's Long Lake Resort was a busy place back in those days, staying open from spring through hunting season each fall. Each of the resort's cabins was heated by a wood stove and was lit by battery-powered lights. The lodge had a 32-volt Kohler generator which was used to charge the batteries that powered the lighting in the lodge and cabins. There were no refrigerators at the time, so each cabin had an icebox that the resort stocked daily with fresh ice.

Providing customers with "a taste of the good life" was challenging work for anyone running a resort in those days. Most resort visitors came up from the Twin Cities to fish, relax, and play some horseshoes and badminton. They were greeted each morning by the smell of fresh bread and cinnamon rolls, a daily routine for Nora Macemon. Fisherman were provided a fresh supply of minnows each day that had been trapped in the Boy River by the Macemons.



The "Fall and Rise" of Long Lake (continued from page 5)

Cleaning cabins, delivering ice and wood and doing maintenance on the buildings and equipment required constant attention. Over the winter, the Macemons would come up to the lodge to gather ice for the icehouse so they and their guests could store food during their seasonal stays at the resort. Warren Macemon was just a kid back then, but still remembers when he, his dad and his brothers would cut ice blocks from the lake with a large circular saw and then haul the blocks up to the icehouse where they would be covered with sawdust to preserve them for the upcoming season. They used their Model A Ford to pull the heavy blocks out of the lake and up to the icehouse.

As mentioned earlier in the article, fishing was good in Long Lake during those years, as anglers enjoyed catching sunfish, crappies, northern pike, walleye and both large and smallmouth bass. Warren remembers catching black crappies as fast as they could pull them into the boat, and it was not unheard of to catch an 18 inch crappie. If you're thinking this might be an exaggerated fish story, as I did, I checked it out and found that black crappies can grow up to 20 inches long...WOW! Walleye were also more plentiful in those days, but catching them required fishing at night due to the clarity of the water.



Cutting ice blocks out of the lake at Macemon's Long Lake Resort

Much has changed on the lake over the years since the departure of the logging crews in 1909. The landscape is fully treed once again, minus the towering pine trees. All of the resorts, except Camp O' My Dreams and Deer Trail Resort, are gone. The lake has also changed since 1946 when Herb Macemon first purchased his resort. Those of us who have been here a few years have seen lake water levels rise and fall a foot or two each year as part of the normal seasonal process. But in 1946, the lake was at least 15 feet lower than it is today. The wooded island on the far north end of the lake was actually connected by land to the northwest shore of the lake and guests at Macemon's Long Lake Resort could actually walk out to the island (I guess it would correctly have been called a peninsula at that time). Today, that land bridge is 15 feet under water. The Narrows, which we now cruise through easily when boating, was impassable by boat back in 1946, and remained that way until 1964 when a channel was opened between the north and south ends of the lake, using dynamite and a dragline.



Herbert & Nora Macemon

read about the threat of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) which are all around us as more area lakes are infected each year. In that struggle, we can each do our part to protect Long Lake by properly cleaning anything that has been in an infected lake before we put it in the water. This includes boats, trailers, docks, lifts, personal watercraft and even waterski equipment.

There are only a handful of Class 25 lakes in Minnesota, and we are all very fortunate to own a small piece of one. Property values of the future will clearly be impacted by the clarity of the lake - as they always say...location, location, location. I think we can all agree - Long Lake is worth protecting.

Written by Wayne Voigtschild

My sincere thanks to Warren Macemon and Daisy Manders for their vital contributions to content, to Mark Macemon and James Wayne Fuller for furnishing photographs, and to Cheryl Martin, librarian at the Margaret Welch Memorial Library in Longville.

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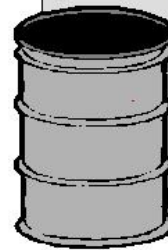
2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Saturday, May 9th @ 10:00 am
 Saturday, June 13th @ 10:00 am
 Saturday, July 11th @ 10:00 am
 Saturday, August 8th @ 9:30 am **
 Saturday, September 12th @ 10:00 am

** Annual meeting begins at 9:30 am; doors open at 9:00 am

Meetings are held at Salem Lutheran Church in Longville.
 All property owners are always welcome to attend.

Burning Garbage is Illegal in Cass County



However, for some reason many burn barrels remain. If you are aware of someone burning garbage, contact Paul Fairbanks, Solid Waste Administrator for Cass County, at 218-547-7287 paul.fairbanks@co.cass.mn.us.

Did you know?



...that dumping unused bait into a lake or any other body of water is against the law in Minnesota? The solution... unwanted live bait should be placed in the trash or in a compost bin.

Here's something you may not have been aware of:

Most cabin "weekenders" will know what we're talking about when we complain about driving back home on Sunday evenings with aroma-filled bags of trash in our vehicles. There is a service offered by City Sanitary Service of Longville that can solve that problem for you. Pick up one of their red trash bags at the One Stop for \$5.49 each. Put your trash in that bag, call the phone number on the attached tag and City Sanitary will tell you where you can leave the bag for their pick-up. And if you find out that you live along one of their regular routes, you don't even have to call, just leave the red bag in the appropriate spot when you leave on Sunday nights.

LLPOA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE!

We will continue to run the "Join the LLPOA" membership campaign. We want to reach property owners that haven't joined the Association yet, or those who may not even know the LLPOA exists. We are hoping that we can enlist the help of our current LLPOA members in this campaign by asking them to talk to their neighbors and find out if they are members already or not. Share with them what we are doing to keep aquatic invasive species out of the lake, how we are managing the lake's water quality and how we are working to protect local wildlife and its habitat - and then encourage them to join. We need everyone's help!

In order to reach as many owners as we can, we will continue to send out paper copies of the Link to those people who are not on our e-mail list, whether they are members or not.

It saves the Association a lot of printing and postage costs when we send the Link by e-mail, so please consider adding yourselves to our newsletter e-mail list; plus you'll receive the added bonus of getting the Link in color! We never use your e-mail for anything other than Association news.

If you would like to begin receiving the Link by e-mail, please send your e-mail address to Meg Voigtschild at meg@msireresults.com.

REMINDER:

The membership/dues form (for new members or members who need to update their information) is included in this newsletter. Send the form, along with your 2015 annual dues (\$15.00), to LLPOA, PO Box 292, Longville, MN 56655.

Feel free to contact Meg to check on the status of your dues. Call 612-805-5995 or e-mail meg@msireresults.com.

