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“Sandhill Crane”
Photo by Ted Thousand

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April 18th on North Long Lake. Photo by John Lowey.

Presidential Messages



Round Lake Association

| Mark Parrish | President |

As I write this message it's mid April and there's still 30 inches of ice on the lake and another winter storm headed our way. Hopefully, as you read this spring has sprung and all is well!

As you recall last year we had a major rebound of curly-leaf pondweed in many areas of Round Lake. The DNR canvassed the lake and identified the areas of growth last fall. In addition the board contracted with A.W. Research to do an aerial survey in November. Once the ice is out of the lake, the areas where the weed was located last fall will be inspected for growth. Once weed growth has been confirmed, Clarke, Inc. will chemically treat those areas. The DNR has approved up to 94 acres of treatment. In addition, a grant of \$100 per acre was secured from the DNR to help offset the cost. A possible benefit to thick ice, heavy snow cover, and late ice out is a possible reduction in the amount of curly-leaf that actually sprouts.

Another project that the board has undertaken is to contract for aerial spraying of Forest Tent Caterpillars. A big thank you goes out to Linda Esser for the hours that she has contributed to coordinate this project.

The Sugar Bush Creek dredging project was completed over the course of the late fall and winter by A.W Research. The muck is out of the creek and the Clemson levelers are operating as they should be. The beaver dams have prevented untold amounts of nutrient rich sediment from reaching Round Lake. The dredging process shouldn't need to be repeated again for a few years.

Please review the financial statements in this news letter. Our balance in the LID account to combat invasive species and improve water quality is pretty healthy. If we have to treat the maximum 94 acres of curly-leaf, it will deplete the account by around \$32,000 (plus the DNR grant of \$9,400). Hopefully there was substantial winter kill of the curly-leaf and we won't have to treat such a large area. The banking of funds gives financial ammunition to combat curly-leaf in the future or another invasive critter.

Please join us and encourage your neighbors to join us at the annual picnic on June 29th. If your grandkids are visiting, bring them along. The food is always good and it's fun to get to know your neighbors..



North Long Lake Association

| Kay Hondo | President |

At the time of this writing (April 20th), I am looking at lots and lots of snow. However, I am fairly sure spring really is around the corner and our declared war against Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) will begin again. Over the winter, Board members have been working on obtaining financial help and making plans to stave off further AIS. As soon as the ice is out, the DNR has promised to use the information that we received from an aerial survey to do a visual testing of the areas suspected to be infested with curly leaf pondweed (clp). Then the information will be shared with Lakes Restoration so the infested areas can be treated sometime in May. We have been promised some financial help with our treatment costs from 30 Lakes Watershed (depending on acreage) and \$1,500 from the DNR. There is an assumption that due to the heavy snow, we may not have as much clp as we might expect under different weather conditions. Since our treatment costs are dependent on the acres treated, I can only guess that we will probably have \$5,000 to \$8,000 in cost. We didn't have to treat clp last year so this expense was not in our budget for 2012. However, we did pay \$1,100 for the aerial survey of the entire lake in November because we knew the clp hadn't gone away. When we know our exact expense for (clp) treatment, I will share that information with you.

Our grant application was approved by the DNR to fund boat inspectors for both the 371 and Merrifield accesses. The DNR will hire, train, and supervise two part-time boat inspectors who will have varied hours/days at our two boat landings this summer. Through the grant, the DNR will pay half the cost; our half will be \$6,463.50. This will provide 834 hours of coverage from the fishing opener through Labor Day. The cost for boat inspectors through the DNR is higher than the County charged last year. Nevertheless, our year over year savings is \$1,300, and we are grateful for the DNR's help both for the boat inspectors and clp treatment.

We know there are AIS infested lakes all around us. If we aren't able to continue our preventive measures and the invasive species win, we all lose. Our property values go down even further than they are now. Our boats, motors, water irrigation, and all our water toys can be ruined by zebra mussels. We might not even be able to navigate around the lake. We need everyone to help us. You and your neighbors stepped up last year and provided us with donations that allowed us to pay our expenses. We will need even more dedication this year. So, that means that we need EVERYONE to do their part to protect this asset. If you haven't supported your lake association's efforts – please, please consider doing so now. If you have already sent dues,

Cooperative Conservation:

The Mississippi River Northwoods Habitat Complex

Most readers know that the Brainerd Lakes Area is one of Minnesota's most rapidly growing regions (see p. 14). Especially attractive to lake residents as well as visitors are the many opportunities available for outdoor recreation. One area, historically used more by local residents than summer visitors, is a tract of land covering approximately 2,000 acres along the banks of the Mississippi River northeast of Brainerd and above Rice Lake that was owned for many years by the Potlatch Corporation. In addition to being attractive for various outdoor uses, the land provides habitat for spawning fish, migrating waterfowl, and the Blanding's turtle – a threatened species.

Beginning about ten years ago, the Crow Wing County Trust for Public Land began recruiting partners and engaging in numerous transactions to link this "Mississippi River Northwoods Habitat Complex" to nearby conservation lands. In this way, the Trust created a nine-mile stretch of protected land along the river. (Note: This "Northwoods" project should not be confused with the Northwoods real estate development now under way on the main bay of North Long Lake.)

Partners in this project included The Nature Conservancy, Anglers for Habitat, Brainerd Lakes Community Foundation, Crow

Wing County, Cuyana Lakes Trails Association, Delta Waterfowl – Brainerd Chapter, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The cooperative efforts of these groups, including presentations to the Governor and the Legislature, came together in the spring of 2012 when the Legislature approved \$11 million from the Outdoor Heritage Fund (supported by the special sales tax) for the protection of the Northwoods Habitat Complex property. The Potlatch Corporation had indicated its wish to sell this land some years ago. Protection of the tract became assured when the Heritage Fund Bill was signed by Governor Dayton on May 1, 2012.

Final agreements between the various parties were reached in November, 2012, when the Trust for Public Land transferred ownership of the property to Crow Wing County to manage for the enjoyment of both current and future generations. Better public access to the land is envisioned but, essentially, the tract will remain pristine. This project is one of more than 50 in Minnesota in which the Nature Conservancy, the well-known international organization, has participated. This is especially good news for lake residents since the Complex is located about six miles from North Long Lake and about twelve miles from Round Lake.

President's Message continued from page 3

North Long Lake Association

| Kay Hondo | President |

consider an additional tax deductible donation to your association's Invasive Species Fund! Any and all donations will be gratefully received. We just received a \$1,000 donation from a couple through their financial institution. What a wonderful gift to the association!

To keep you informed, please provide your email address on your dues statement or send a note to: kayhondonlla@yahoo.com. Also, befriend us on our Facebook account: "Our North Long Lake" or go to our web site: www.northlong.com. We will put out updates via these avenues.

Thank you for your financial commitment and also your time! Don't forget about the summer annual meeting/picnic on July 20 at Legionville. We hope to see you there.

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Thoughts about fishing from the experts

| By Joe Laudenbach |



I have asked some of the local residents to share a few thoughts on their fishing experiences here on North Long Lake.

Here is what Lori and Mike Guin from North 371 Bay had to say. "North Long Lake has an abundance of baitfish which in turn creates a great fishery. It's a multi species paradise that includes a fantastic bite for bass, northern, walleye and pan fish. It can be a tough lake to fish because of the amount of vegetation but once you figure it out the fishing is fantastic. North Long Lake offers the ability to enjoy fishing year round and one of the reasons we chose to live here."



Don Newpower, from the south side of North Long Lake, had this to add. "One of the most fun things we did last year was to fish for largemouth bass. We would go out very early in the morning when the lake was calm and pitch live frogs on weedless hooks into the pencil reeds close to shore. The fish can see the frogs and will sometimes come right out of the water after a frog dangling from a reed."



I interviewed Marsha Meier whose family has had a cabin on the Merrifield Bay all of her life. She shared with me that she loves to fish for panfish with her grand-kids. If the weather is nice, she likes to drift anchorless along and read a book. She also shared a story how, as a teenager, she caught an 8 ½ pound Walleye fishing with a cane pole and frog as bait. It was quite a sight as she had to scream for help to land the fish!

"Whether it's mid-winter Walleyes or early-summer Largemouth Bass, North Long Lake is a great all around lake. This winter was the best year yet. Shallow cabbage weeds were producing Walleyes from 19-30 inches, in around 10-12 feet of water. I was mainly using tip ups and rattle reels baited with medium to large sized shiners. Sunfish were biting well in 371 Bay in about 6-10 feet of water, averaging 6-9 inches, and biting on wax worms and an eyeball jig. When summer comes around, try a Tube Jig in the reeds. Natural greens and browns work very well. For the kids, go in the cabbage weeds in about 10-12 feet of water, use a jig head with a leech, and you will catch countless numbers of sunfish! Come fish North Long Lake- one of the best there is. Good luck fishing!" Written by Logan Waidelich who lives on the south end of the Big Lake.

*If people
concentrated
on the really
important
things in life,
there'd be a
shortage of
fishing poles.*

~ Doug Larson

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Sandhill Cranes: Local “Birds of Heaven”

| By Barry K. Hartup, International Crane Foundation, Baraboo, WI |

Though it may not replace the call of the loon as the song of lake country, the bugles of sandhill cranes are becoming more common in and around the wet meadows and farm fields of Crow Wing County. Sandhill cranes, or *Grus canadensis*, are one of two crane species native to North America, the other being the endangered whooping crane. In Minnesota, two populations of the Greater sandhill crane subspecies are found: cranes in the northwest part of the state are from the mid-continent population, and those in the central part of the state are from the eastern population. In winter, cranes from our area migrate to the southeastern states, anywhere from Indiana to Florida, depending on access to food and weather conditions. While spring this year is rather delayed, the cranes of Crow Wing County should be in the midst of nesting as you read this article.

Sandhill cranes stand nearly 5 feet tall, weigh 10-14 pounds, and possess a 6 foot wingspan and mostly gray plumage that is stained a rusty brown from iron-rich mud the birds preen into their feathers. An iconic red skin patch covers the forehead and

crown, and adults have a white cheek patch and deep orange eyes. Adult males and females are essentially identical, though males tend to be larger. The juvenile plumage changes from cinnamon brown to gray as the bird matures during the first year. The great blue heron, the bird my grandmother used to call “the crane” and occasionally seen on our dock on North Long Lake, is sometimes confused with the sandhill crane. Herons can be distinguished by a lack of a red crown, its ability to roost and nest in trees, and its shape in flight: herons fly with their necks curved into an “S” shape and legs outstretched, while cranes fly with both neck and legs outstretched.

The breeding population of sandhill cranes in Minnesota was estimated at only 10-25 pairs in the mid-1940s. Like many species of the prairie region, sandhill cranes declined rapidly following habitat loss from drainage of wetlands for agriculture and settlement, and over-hunting. A variety of legal protections, improvements in agricultural practices, and conservation action has produced a steady recovery. Cranes are long-lived species, with some individuals able to survive 20 or more years in the wild, but they are slow reproducers, typically fledging just one chick per year. Cranes are expected to increase throughout the state in the coming years.

While uncommon in a lake basin, sandhill cranes may be observed in migration or in grasslands or nearby agricultural fields. Nesting cranes use shallow marshes with good cover such as cattails and bulrush that are adjacent to upland areas for foraging. Sandhill cranes feed on a variety of plant tubers, grains, small rodents and snakes, and invertebrates such as insects or worms.

Long considered a species that mated for life, new research has shown that sandhill cranes have a flair for the dramatic in domestic affairs. Matt Hayes, a colleague from the International Crane Foundation (ICF) in Baraboo, Wisconsin, related the following story: a birdwatcher from Elk River noted a banded crane with a mate on his property in March of last year. This female crane had been captured and banded as a chick at Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in 2007, but had a damaged bill Matt thought was quite compromising. She had not only survived, but she had evidently replaced the former female and was now paired to the resident male. Whether this was due to a “divorce” and re-pairing (which Matt has meticulously documented in Wisconsin), or a new pairing following the death of the former female is unknown. The new pair went on to raise a chick of their own last summer and has already returned in 2013 ready to nest. This kind of adaptability has certainly led to the continued recovery of cranes in our area.





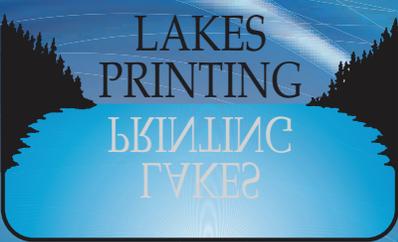
There are many sites just a stone's throw (as the crane flies) where you might see sandhill cranes: the Northland Arboretum, just behind the Westgate Mall and bordering the Paul Bunyan Trail on the north side of Brainerd, and Crow Wing State Park just southwest of the city. Further afield, Crane Meadows NWR near Little Falls protects one of the largest nesting populations of sandhill cranes in Minnesota. Nearly 7,000 migrating sandhill cranes were counted at Sherburne NWR in November last fall.

Monitoring the sandhill crane population in Minnesota is important for identifying new problems that may arise. Measuring populations is a critical step in fine-tuning management plans for any wildlife species. To this end, ICF sponsors the Annual Midwest Crane Count through which thousands of volunteers count cranes each April. A growing number of participants in Minnesota are contributing every year. I would encourage any of our avid bird watchers to consider becoming a survey coordinator for Crow Wing County in 2014! More information can be found at: http://www.savingcranes.org/annualmidwestcranecount_2.html

Additional material on sandhill cranes can be found at the following websites:

- <http://mn.audubon.org/sandhill-cranes-minnesota>
- <http://www.savingcranes.org/sandhill-crane.html>
- <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/birds/sandhillcrane.html>
- <http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=32555>

Photos by Ted Thousand.



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The Path to the Lake

| by Judy DuBois, Crow Wing County Master Gardener |

"No matter how barren the past may have been, 'Tis enough for us now that the leaves are green; We sit in the warm shade and feel right well, How the sap creeps up and the blossoms swell..."

These few lines are taken from a poem by James Russell Lowell titled "June". The gardener in me is desperate for something to look forward to as I write this while my husband is performing his magic with the maple sap — in the **snow**.

If you are planning to add a tree to your landscape this year, you will want to consider a few things before you purchase and plant.

- What is the soil like at the planting site?
- How much sunlight does the spot get?
- Is the area windy, hot and dry, or wet and cool?
- Will there be buildings, fences or some other hardscape nearby as it grows?

Remember that the conditions of the planting site should be as important as the plant you select if you want to be successful.

Examine your soil. Is it sandy, heavy clay or high in organic matter? Each of these types of soil relate directly to how well water will travel through the planting site. Tree roots require both moisture and oxygen for growth. A tree planted in soil that drains poorly is slow to establish good root growth, lacks vigor, and often will just slowly die. To test for soil drainage, dig a hole 18 inches deep, fill it with water, and let it stand overnight. (**BEFORE YOU DIG** call "811" so you know what's below; or go to www.call811.com.) If the water has not drained by morning, there's a problem. You can get advice on how to improve your soil's drainage from your nursery or on the University of Minnesota Extension website: www.extension.umn.edu.

It also helps to know your soil's pH. Most trees thrive on a pH between 5.5 and 6.5. (Just a reminder — 7 is neutral. Below 7 indicates acid soil and above 7 is alkaline.) Consider what pH is best for the

tree you'd like to plant OR what tree would do best in your soil.

Since we're assuming here that you're planting for shade, your site should have enough sun to maintain vigor and growth. Keep in mind that buildings and fences will have an effect on your planting site's temperature and moisture. Prevailing winds can have a drying effect.

Trees are marketed in a number of ways: Bare Root, Container Grown, Balled and Burlapped, and Tree Spade, among others. Follow transportation and planting directions carefully for each type. The most important factor at this point is planting depth. *The "root flare" should be at the soil surface.* (Please see adjoining photos) If you plant too deep, your tree will have the appearance of a telephone pole stuck in the ground and you have a much greater chance of suckers growing up around the trunk. The entire size of your hole should be two or three times that of the root ball.

Lastly, you will want to mulch and water. Mulching allows for better infiltration of water, holds soil moisture, limits weed growth, and discourages injury from lawnmowers and weed whips. Apply about a 4-inch layer of pine or hardwood mulch to form a 3 to 6-foot diameter circle around your planting. Remember to keep the mulch material from direct contact with the tree's trunk however! When it comes to watering, typically 5 - 7 gallons applied to the root ball once a week for the first two years is sufficient. This, however, will depend greatly on your soil condition and the weather. If the soil feels dry or even just slightly damp, watering is needed. Keep in mind that most young trees will die sooner of drowning than thirst. (There is a fairly new product out called an "alligator sack" that helps with watering a young tree. Ask about it at your nursery.) Fertilization is not necessary.

I hope the ice is out on the lakes by the time you read this. Happy Planting!

Update on Curly Leaf Pondweed

| By Steve Clough, Willard Hartup, Sandy Loney |

Round Lake

After several years of decline, the presence of curly leaf pondweed (clp) in Round Lake returned with a vengeance in 2012. A perfect storm of conditions, including early ice out and warm weather, caused large weed beds to flourish. This reoccurrence served as a reminder that clp can only be controlled, not eradicated. Through the work of the DNR and an aerial survey conducted by AW Research in November, areas of current growth have been mapped. Once the ice is out of the lake, the association's chosen provider, Clarke Inc., will canvas the areas where the clp is located and apply herbicide. A permit has been secured from the DNR to treat up to 94 acres (see Figure 1) and a grant for \$100 per acre from the DNR has been secured. If the entire 94 acres is treated the cost will be around \$42,000 (less the DNR grant) for a total cost of \$32,000.

The extreme winter experienced this year may actually be of benefit to the reduction of curly leaf. Thick ice combined with snow cover and late ice out reduces the amount of sunlight that clp needs to flourish in the early spring. With a little luck these conditions will reduce the area of treatment and save the association several thousands of dollars. The money can be banked and used for future wars against this and other invasive species.

North Long Lake

Similar to conditions in Round Lake, curly leaf pondweed re-occurred in Merrifield Bay last spring and summer even though early indications were that the 2011 treatment had virtually eliminated it. A survey made by the DNR in June 2012 showed its re-emergence and a November aerial survey indicated that approximately 27 acres were affected – a large increase from 2010. Infestations in the lake vary in density, so a decision concerning the acreage to be treated this spring cannot be made until ice out (which hasn't occurred as we go to press). Grants from the Thirty Lakes Watershed District and the DNR will cover more than half the cost of treatment. Most likely, it will only be necessary to treat 15 acres of the infestation which will be done, as in the past, by Lakes Restoration, Inc.

The Future

Current status and future outlook were discussed in Brainerd at an all-day workshop in early April sponsored by AW Research and Lakes Restoration. New ways of assessing clp infestation are emerging constantly and old ones are discredited. For example, rake testing in the spring is ineffective although GPS surveys from boats remain popular and aerial surveys are used increasingly. Citizen-based collaborative monitoring has been successful in some places. Lawrence HDS depth finders can be used to collect data for mapping aquatic vegetation and lake sediment can be tested as soil sampling is done in agriculture.

As mentioned, winters with less snow, more sunlight, and early ice out (2011-2012) mean increased growth. Conversely, more snow, less sunlight, and late ice out (2012-2013) mean decreased growth. No magic wand exists for control of this invasive species. Residents must face the fact that once infested, treatment must be ongoing unless the water body is to become a tangled mess of loosened stems by early summer.



Prepared by A.W. Research Laboratories, Inc. 2012

Managing Invasive Species In Minnesota

| By Chuck Jorgensen |

In 1991 the Minnesota Legislature directed the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to establish an Invasive Species Program and to implement actions to monitor and manage invasive species of aquatic plants and wild animals. The results of this program and status of some of the more common invasive species that are being dealt with as of 2012 are as follows:

Eurasian watermilfoil has been discovered in 16 additional water bodies bringing the total number of infested water bodies to 273.

Purple loosestrife is known to infest 2408 locations here in Minnesota. This past year 4 new sites were found; bringing the total number of known infestations to 2412 locations.

Curly-leaf pondweed is known to occur in 759 lakes, in 70 out of the 87 counties in Minnesota.

Flowering rush is found in 27 water bodies in 10 counties in the state. There were no new infestations reported in 2012.

Zebra mussel infestations have been found in 14 new lakes this year. They are: Pelican, Gilbert and Buck Lake in (Becker County); Lake Minnewasha and Lake Emily (Pope County), Lake Miliona and Lake Ida (Douglas County), Orwell Reservoir, Dayton Hollow Reservoir, Paul, Rusch, Little McDonald, and Kerbs lake (Ottertail County) and Breckenridge (Wilkin County).

Spiny waterflea infestation was discovered in Trout Lake (Cook County) this year. More infestations are likely due to the interconnections between many of the infested lakes in northern Minnesota.

Chinese and Banded mystery snails are being reported in Minnesota waters – more than 90 occurrences of Chinese

mystery snails and 60 occurrences of Banded mystery snails have been reported.

Asian Carp have been found in two of Minnesota's major rivers. Three species of Asian Carp have been caught; one adult Bighead Carp in the St. Croix River in April 2012, and a Grass, Bighead, and Silver Carp were caught by commercial fishermen in the Mississippi River in March 2012 down around Winona (see update, p. 17).

Funding

As you might expect an invasive species program is not cheap. In 2012 the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) spent \$7,237,000 on the program. Some of that funding comes from a \$5.00 surcharge on the registration of watercraft which in 2012 provided \$1,200,000. There is also a \$2.00 fee on non-resident fishing licenses that managed to raise \$400,000.

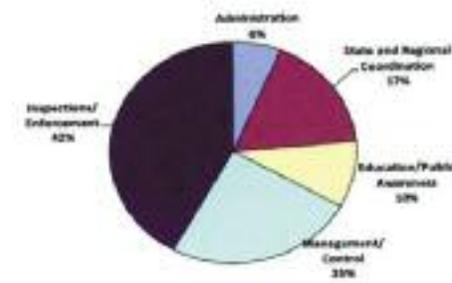


Figure 1. Aquatic Invasive Species Program spending (Invasive Species Account, General Fund, Heritage Enhancement Fund, and the Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund only) in FY12 by major categories.

Figure 1 shows how the funds are distributed to cover the expenses of the program. It appears that a significant portion of the funds are spent for administration, management, and coordination. It looks as if there could be an opportunity to improve the efficiency of the program.

2013 Plans

Watercraft inspection is but one part of the DNR's tools to combat the spread of AIS and Wild Animal invasive species. In response to the growing number of infested waters, the DNR made significant adjustments to the way that inspection hours were allocated in the state. The goal is containment of the Zebra Mussels to the infested waters and to prevent them from spreading to other lakes. To accomplish this goal it was necessary to increase the number of inspections from 60,000 in 2010 to 76,000 in 2011. This was accomplished despite the fact that inspection hours were cut by 5,000 hours in 2011.

In planning for the 2013 season, the goal is to complete 60,000 hours of inspections across the state. To help meet their goal, the DNR is offering two watercraft inspection grant programs. The first grant is to split the cost (\$15.50/hr) with cooperators for additional inspection hours at designated accesses. The DNR will recruit, hire, schedule, supervise, insure, and cover social security cost. Eligible applicants for the grant are lake associations, lake improvement districts, local citizen groups, and local units of governments. Number of hours awarded is based on available funding.

The second grant is for local government units (LGU) that would like to implement an aquatic invasive species prevention program using DNR trained inspectors to work at water accesses in their area. The eligible applicants include local units of government such as: conservation districts, cities, counties, and watershed districts that have the capacity to assume all legal, financial and administrative responsibilities for a watercraft inspection program. There is approximately \$130,000 of grant funding available for LUGs that are implementing watercraft inspection programs.

Round Lake

In 2012 the DNR scheduled 699 hours of level 1 watercraft inspection for Round Lake. The Round Lake Improvement District (RLID) applied for and received 480 hours of additional level 1 inspection at a cost to the RLID of (\$7.75/hr) \$3720.00, bringing our total of level 1 inspection hours to 1179. However, because the DNR was unable to hire and train enough inspectors for the season, they were only able to provide 740.25 hours of inspection at the Round Lake access. Therefore, the cost to the RLID was reduced to cover only the 41.25 hours (\$319.69) over the scheduled 699 hours the DNR provided. Additionally, the DNR had a level 2 inspector with a portable high pressure, high temperature power washer unit at the Round Lake access for approximately 239 hours.

The results of the Round Lake inspection program are as follows: there were 1190 inspections completed, 698 entering the lake and 492 exiting the lake representing an inspection rate of 1.79 per hour. Of the 1190 watercraft inspected, 8 were found to have attached vegetation or Zebra Mussels. During the 239 hours that the power washer was at the Round Lake access 11 decontaminations were done. The inspectors found that watercraft entering Round Lake came from several surrounding states: Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin. The most often sited violation was transporting a watercraft with the drain plug in. Of the 698 watercraft entering the lake, 11 had their drain plugs still in the craft. This may have been due to the many out of state watercraft entering the lake.

At the end of the season, watercraft were inspected as they exited the lake. During that period there were 5 watercraft found to have Zebra Mussels attached. These crafts were issued permits to proceed directly to a decontamination station to have the craft decontaminated. If a watercraft exiting the lake had vegetation on the craft or the trailer it had to be removed before the unit left the landing.

North Long Lake

Boat inspectors were hired during the summer of 2012 for North Long Lake through the Crow Wing County Land

Services Program with funds from the North Long Lake Association. Inspectors were on duty at both the Merrifield and Route 371 Public Accesses for 741 hours from the Fishing Opener through Labor Day. Inspections occurred mainly on Wednesday and Friday evenings, Saturdays, and Sundays. Cost was \$7,616, mostly for the inspectors' time plus a small amount for uniform shirts and small equipment.

Subsequent to the close of the season, the DNR provided data to the Association showing boat entries and exits, previous water bodies entered, existence of vegetation or mussels on the boats, and whether drain plugs were in or out (see Table 1). While these inspections covered much less than half of the boat entries to the lake during the year, the number of entries is sufficiently substantial to be reliable, that is, conclusions would not change had we had more inspections. Midweek inspections would probably yield proportionally fewer boats coming from other waters than were reported but that would be the only difference.

Table 1.
North Long Lake inspections summary (2012)

Boaters/Inspections.....	1,171
Enter/Exits.....	841/330
Drain Plugs In	449
Water Onboard	6

The finding that 53% of all entering boats had their drain plugs in is disheartening since this is illegal in Minnesota. Significantly more boats entered with drain plugs in at the Merrifield access than at 371 but it is impossible to tell whether this is a true "access difference;" it might be an "inspector difference" because different people worked at each access.

Of special interest are the water bodies from which the 841 entering boats came. Data were lacking for 20 of these entries, but the results for the remaining 821 are shown in Table 2. Data are not presented for exiting boats because they can't be interpreted: these boats may have entered when inspectors were not on duty, were launched at sites other than the public accesses, etc.

Table 2.

Previous water bodies from which 821 entering boats came.

North Long Lake	408
Other Water bodies	331
No immediate water body.....	82

Not surprisingly, 50% of the boats entering the lake had last been in North Long Lake itself. About 40% had previously been in other water bodies. About 10% had not been in a water body for an appreciable time.

Further breakdown of the information about boats coming from water bodies other than North Long Lake reveals another disturbing situation: **171 (52%) of these boats had come from a water body infested with zebra mussels.** Put another way: **21% OF ALL BOATS ENTERING NORTH LONG LAKE LAST SUMMER WERE PREVIOUSLY IN WATER INFESTED WITH ZEBRA MUSSELS.** Table 3 shows specifically where these boats came from, most within a 20-mile radius of the middle of North Long Lake. It can also be noted that 19 boats (2%) came from other states where zebra mussels have been found although most of these boats had been in other Minnesota waters prior to entering North Long Lake.

Table 3.

Previous water bodies infested with zebra mussels from which 171 boats came.

Water body	Number of boats
Gull Lake	69
Mille Lacs	25
Lake Pelican	24
Mississippi River	22
Round Lake.....	21
Other	10

With this number of potential carriers of zebra mussels entering North Long Lake, one wonders how long this water body can remain pristine. The Lake Association Board of Directors believes that the inspectors themselves slow down this proliferation but, since boats are not decontaminated at this site, retardation from the inspections would occur mostly through education plus removal of vegetation and water from entering boats.

continued on page 17

Crow Wing County Geography is Basis for New Water Plan

| By Willard Hartup |

“Water is Crow Wing County’s lifeblood.” So begins the draft of the 2013 Water Plan devised by the Crow Wing County Land Services department, a document that will govern priorities and practices relating to water conservation in the county over the next 10 years. A first plan was adopted by the County Commissioners in 1990 and has undergone revision a number of times. Priority concerns, however, have changed considerably since the last revision in 2008. For example, the threat posed by aquatic invasive species (AIS) was not among listed priorities in that year but is listed first among priorities in the new plan, consistent with survey results from 600 county citizens conducted in May, 2012.

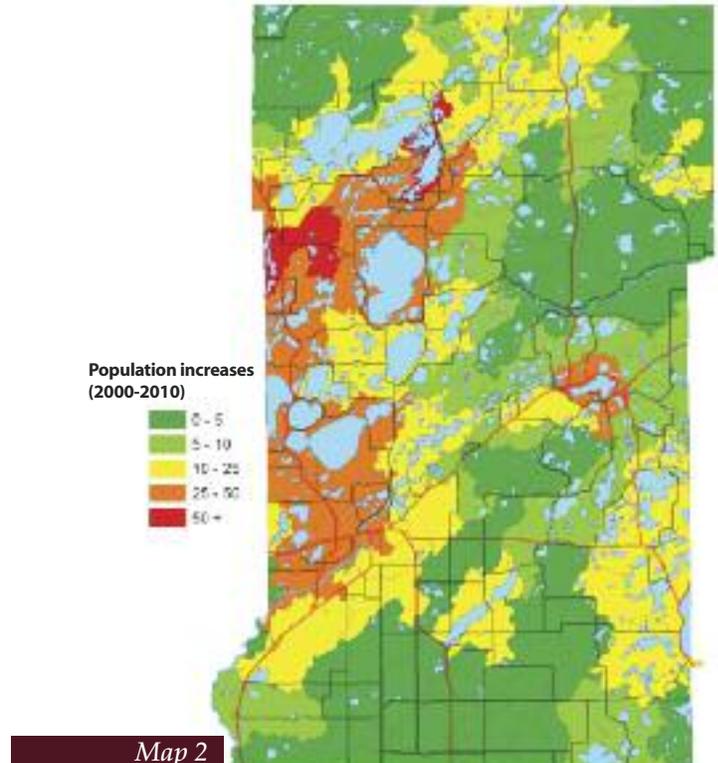
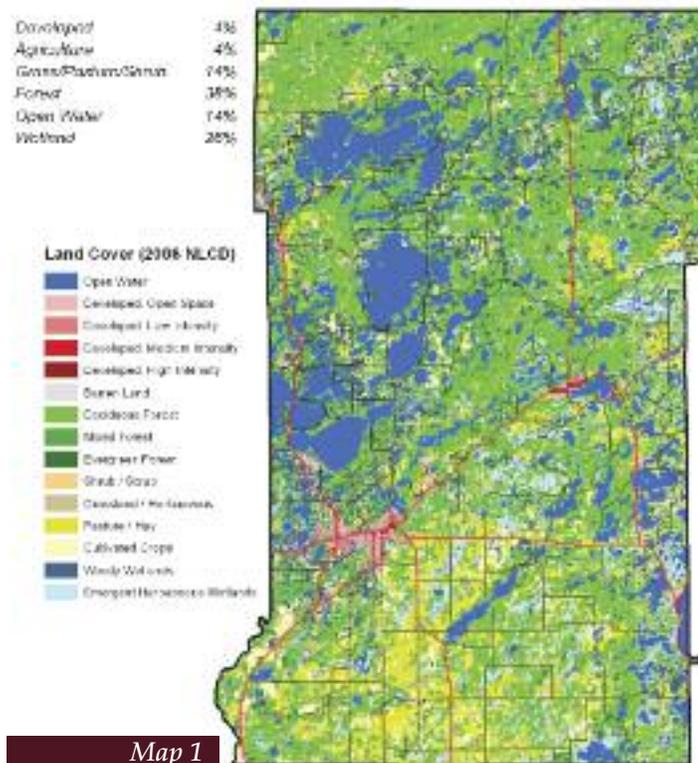
Water planning is a complex exercise which, in Crow Wing County, requires analysis in three areas: geography, ecology, and development status (what people have done to the landscape). The maps illustrating this article reveal much

about each of these areas and are taken from the 2013 plan. Readers will find these maps instructive at many levels, revealing in detail the environment that surrounds us.

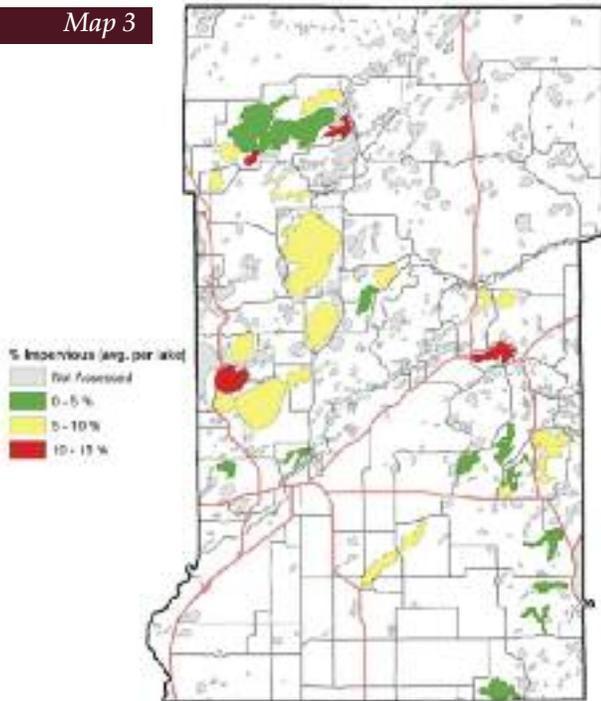
County basics. Map 1 shows “county basics,” that is, the nature of the land cover in the county at present, reflecting both natural and man-made developments. Note that 14% of the county is covered by lakes, rivers, and streams and an additional 26% by wetlands. With 40% of the county “wet,” there is little doubt that planning is necessary, especially since ecological conditions are changing rapidly (see below). The map shows, locally, what most of us know: Round and North Long Lake are embedded in a land that is covered with mixed and deciduous forest with only one major developed area close by: the Brainerd International Raceway and satellite developments.

Recent development. The abundance of surface water in the county makes it a destination for both seasonal visitors and year-round residents. The population increased 25% between 1990 and 2000 and another 13% between 2000 and 2010. Much of this growth was concentrated around larger lakes and transportation corridors. Map 2 shows increases since 2000 in number of “address points” added per square mile with the largest increases (over 50%) occurring in the Breezy Point-Pequot Lakes-Cross Lake areas and in Nisswa; 25%-50% increases marked the North Long Lake and Round Lake area, which will not surprise readers who have lived around these lakes for a decade or more. Property valuations in the county increased more than 100% during this decade. Recent surveys also show that the county will be a draw for people (especially retirees) for many years to come.

Impervious surface. One development indicator that interests water planners is



Map 3



Map 4



the amount of impervious surface that has been put in place around the lakes in the region. (Impervious surface is cover like concrete, asphalt, roof tops, and sidewalks measured within specified areas of the shoreline.) Map 3 shows that three lakes, including Round Lake (14.5%), have high impervious percentages on their riparian lots whereas the county's larger lakes, including North Long Lake (6.2%) all have averages of less than 10%. Since impervious surfaces do not absorb groundwater, their presence has implications for the management of run-off from snowmelt, rain, and sprinklers which contain phosphorous and other materials that affect lake water quality.

Water quality. The 2013 water plan is organized around so-called "major watersheds." Such organization is believed to be necessary because surface water, storm water run-off, and topographical conditions affect decisions concerning water management differently according to watershed characteristics. Although Crow Wing County lies entirely within the Upper Mississippi watershed, parts of five major watersheds are located within its borders (see Map 4). Both Round Lake and North Long Lake lie within the Crow Wing River watershed from which all water drains through the Crow Wing river and lake chain and from there to the Mis-

issippi. To examine water quality, based on sampling done by our lake associations as well as local units of government, "trend analysis" has been used (which evens out variations both within seasons and between seasons). Round Lake results show no consistent trend, with sites in the western part of the lake showing no trend – neither improving or declining –and with those in the eastern part showing some decline. North Long Lake (based on data that are not clear in the map) shows declining water quality over a large number of years for the West and Main Bays but improving quality in the East Bay.

AIS Distribution. Current status of Crow Wing County lakes in terms of AIS is shown in Map 5, although the map excludes infestation with curly-leaf pondweed – a curse operating in both Round and North Long Lakes. The map clearly shows those lakes (including Round Lake) that are infested with zebra mussels and others infested with Eurasian milfoil.

Watershed risk. When prioritizing efforts to manage water conditions within the county, one should distinguish between public and private land. Public lands generally have high water quality and few risk factors for decline. Private

lands, however, may or may not contain risks to water quality, depending on development pressures, amounts of disturbed land, animal units, extractive uses, and existing waste drainage systems. Map 6 shows each of the major watersheds extending into the county and the land within them, classified according to their risk for deterioration. Round Lake and North Long Lake are in a category called "enhance/protection." This means that 20%-40% of the land is "protected," either because it is public land or otherwise protected, but also that the area may have potential risk factors that could cause negative impact on the surface water in the watershed. Moderate amounts of impervious surfaces, development, disturbed land, and drainage systems exist within this part of the watershed. Overall, "enhance/protection" means that our section of the Crow Wing River watershed are in "fair" condition but offer opportunities for project implementation and further protection. Hence, the efforts of our two lake associations in monitoring water quality, AIS protection, waste disposal, and boat inspections are well worth it.

The 2013 Water Plan. The new water plan addresses priorities in three areas: AIS, surface water, and ground water. Crow Wing County clearly recognizes

that lake associations play a huge role in the fight against AIS because of their locations on the firing line. The objectives contained in the plan include: (a) coordination between the county and lake associations through distribution of information about grants, workshops, and other associations; (b) coordination of a watercraft inspection program with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR); (c) providing information about processes and expectations of Lake Improvement Districts (of which Round Lake is one), refinement of county LID policies, and maintenance of reports and contact information online; (d) improving AIS signage, developing materials for use in schools and other venues, and using social media, websites, and press releases to educate both residents and visitors.

A second priority concern in the water plan is surface water. Specific objectives include: (a) improving storm water management through technical assistance, grants, educational materials, workshops, support for methods that promote storm water techniques with minimal impact as

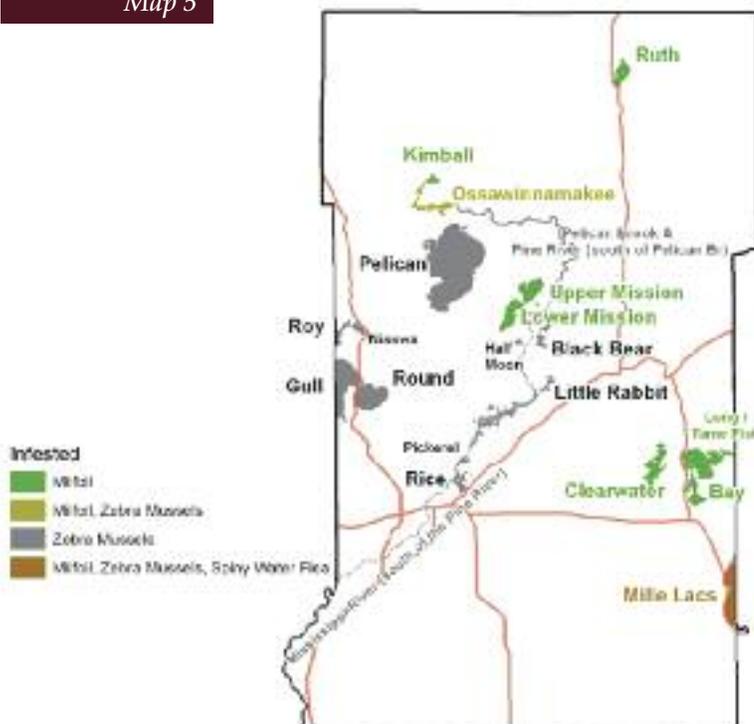
well as natural drainage ways, and development of improved public and private drainage systems; (b) protection and improvement of the county's 2,000 miles of shoreline through provision of technical assistance, grants to provide incentives for improved shoreline practices, and expanded availability of educational materials that promote natural shoreline practices; (c) protecting the 26% of the county that is comprised of wetlands through leadership in administering the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act and offering educational opportunities for area contractors and professionals; (d) providing leadership in development of land use ordinances (building codes and related matters), measuring impervious surface coverage, measuring phosphorous inputs from land use and helping to mitigate them, encouraging reconstruction of shoreline buffers, promoting conservation easements, identifying sensitive shorelines, and promoting private forest management. Surface water objectives also include measuring water quality through assessing long term trends, encouraging water sampling by lake associations, and coordinating find-

ings with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. A final objective concerns oversight of agricultural activity, especially the disposal of manure and other effluents as well as pasture management.

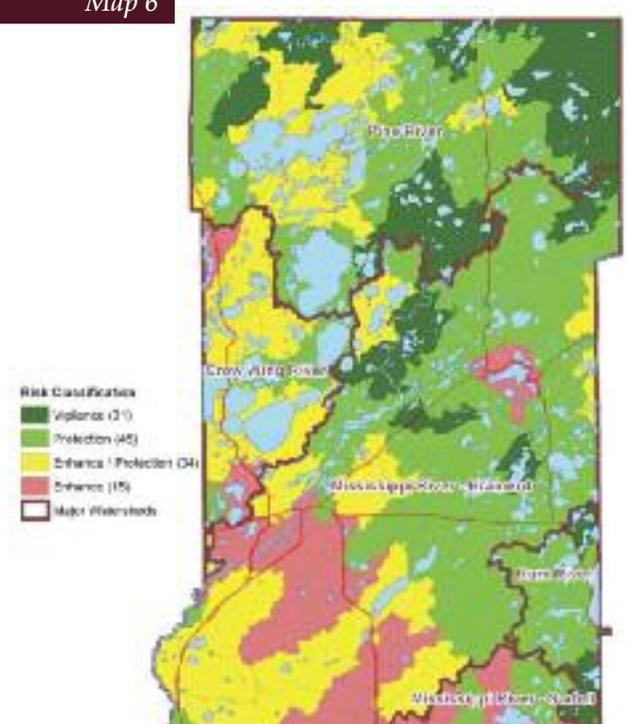
The last set of objectives in the new water plan concern ground water oversight through: (a) encouragement of septic system owners to access their systems every three years for maintenance, providing leadership in administering the Minnesota septic rules, giving landowners information about financial resources available for system upgrades; (b) testing for nitrates in drinking water; (c) well head protection and encouragement in sealing unused/abandoned wells; and (d) providing information concerning the proper disposal of household waste.

Management of water quality in Round and North Long Lakes is thus embedded in a complex set of county objectives and actions that involve the watershed of which water bodies are a part. The entire draft of the 2013 Water Plan, which is to be finalized in August, is available on the Crow Wing County website.

Map 5



Map 6



New tests show DNA evidence of Asian carp lacking

| From the Brainerd Dispatch |

New analyses for Asian carp DNA in water samples from the Mississippi and St. Croix rivers showed little evidence of big-head and silver carp (see this Newsletter, spring 2012). A joint report was issued by the new Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center at the University of Minnesota (funded by the 2012 Legislature with Legacy Amendment monies), the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The authors of the report conclude that, while recent captures by commercial fishermen show the species to be present in Minnesota, numbers are still relatively low.

Studies completed in 2011 testing for carp DNA in these riverine environments showed positive results for silver carp in nearly half of the large number of samples collected. The new report is more rigorous than previous ones, using a large number of experimental controls and techniques developed by the U.S. Corps of Engineers for their work in the badly-infested Illinois River; DNA sequencing is included in these work-ups. Ac-

cording to the researchers, the study completed in 2012 consistently detected silver carp eDNA (that is, DNA fragments released into the environment) in Iowa where the fish are abundant. On the other hand, no eDNA was found just above or below the St. Croix Falls in the St. Croix River, above or below the Coon Rapids Dam, or below Lock and Dam No. 1 in the Mississippi River. No bighead carp eDNA was found anywhere, including in Iowa where this species is known to be present.

Peter Sorensen, the director of the Minnesota AIS Research Center, said that the differences between the 2011 and 2012 results may be partly due to improvements in testing technology. This investigator believes that, in spite of the evidence from the 2012 study, good reasons exist to suggest that these fish are routinely entering Minnesota waters from the south and could eventually breed here. Even though the results suggest that big-head and silver carp have not yet become established in Minnesota, the threat of Asian carp is an urgent issue for the state requiring watchfulness and continuing action.

Managing Invasive Species In Minnesota

Continued from page 13

The Board has obtained two grants (see President's message) to assist with inspections in 2013: a grant from the DNR to match similar funds from the Association, and a small grant the County Land Services Program (also originating with the DNR). Altogether, these funds and the NLL Association's Invasive Species Fund will pay for approximately 960 hours of water inspection scheduled similarly to last year.

Future

In 2013, the DNR is planning to increase the number of Level 1 and Level 2 inspectors that it hires and trains to avoid a shortage of inspectors again this year.

The 2013 legislature is also considering new ways to raise revenue for AIS programs. They are currently considering a bill (HR1442) to require all watercraft to display an invasive species decal issued by the DNR. The cost of the decal would be \$5.00/year for non-motorized watercraft less than 25 feet, \$10.00/year for motorized watercraft less than 25 feet, and \$25.00/year for motorized watercraft over 25 feet. There would also be a separate fee for watercraft not registered in Minnesota: \$15/year for non-motorized watercraft and \$30.00/year for motorized watercraft. The fine for not having a decal will be \$50.00 for the first offense and \$100.00 for the second. What they plan

on doing with all the money is yet to be determined.

References

Most of the information for this article came from the DNR's Invasive Species Annual Report 2012. For those interested in reading the entire report go to: [http://files.dnr.state.us/aboutdnr/reports/legislative/2012 invasive species annual report final.pdf](http://files.dnr.state.us/aboutdnr/reports/legislative/2012%20invasive%20species%20annual%20report%20final.pdf)—Information on the DNR's invasive species grants can be found on their website. To view [2012 Summary Report of Watercraft Inspection Results at Round Lake in Crow Wing County](#) go to www.round-lakebrainerd.com.

Forest & Shoreline Parcelization

| Jeff Forester, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates |

Forest & Shoreline Parcelization in Minnesota is Being Driven by Taxes, the Market and Demographics



About ten years ago my aging parents decided that they could no longer own the family cabin on lake Vermilion. They had almost 300 acres of land and a little log cabin built by my great grandfather. It was our family place and no matter how far we scattered, like salmon returning to the rivers of our birth, we all found our way back there to be together each summer.

But as my parents aged they could no longer do the upkeep work, could no longer navigate the rugged landscape, and could no longer afford the escalating property taxes. The land was sold. Where there was one small log cabin there are now three, and the land has been divided into five different plots. The sale and subdivision was like a death in our family, and the land, once pristine, is now much diminished.

Unfortunately, ours is not an isolated incident but part of a greater trend. Since

2000, the rate of parcelization of sensitive shorelines has accelerated due to increasing real estate and inheritance taxes, state death rates, and regulatory uncertainty.¹ In Minnesota, rising property tax payments on shoreline have driven the sale and subsequent parcelization of sensitive shoreline, despite the fact that 86 percent of Minnesota seasonal property owners, like my own family, do not want to sell their property.²

According to Forest Service researcher Brett Butler, Ph.D., people age 70 or older own about a fifth of all privately owned forestlands. More than 60 percent of current forestland owners are age 55 or older and about half of them have already retired. Inevitably they will soon divest their forestland holdings to their heirs.

Two big differences between the current owners and their offspring involves taxes and medical costs. Butler's research revealed that the upcoming generation will struggle to pay the property taxes. The boomer generation also felt that their parent's medical expenses could force them to sell or subdivide their forest land and shoreline. "This marks the first tie between forest health and people health," says Catherine Mater of the Pinchot Institute, a national conservation group.

USDA Forest Service Chief Gail Kimbell said, "Private forests provide significant public benefits and family forest owners are the key to maintaining these benefits for future generations. Clean water and clean air are just two of the ways we all benefit from forests.... For environmen-

tal reasons, for social reasons, and for heritage and economic values, keeping family lands intact benefits us all," added Kimbell. In Minnesota 43% of the forests are held by families like mine, the largest ownership block in the state.

In Minnesota forest fragmentation translates into degradation of our top resource, our lakes. Researchers have shown parcelization is more concentrated on properties adjacent to lakeshore and public lands. This parcelization often leads to development.³

Paul Radomski, DNR, looked at development in north central MN lakes and found a substantial loss of near shore habitat due to fragmentation from development. Radomski writes, "... use of a shoreline incentive program that promotes good shoreland and shoreline management by property owners may have merit."⁴

A Proposal For Shoreland Incentives
Minnesota has strong and effective incentives for farmland, wetland and forest conservation, but in the land of ten thousand lakes, there is no incentive for shoreline stewardship. In fact the opposite is true.

Minnesota's tax code aggressively selects for ever-greater fragmentation, development and redevelopment of shoreline, and it applies this pressure relentlessly, year after year in good economies and bad. As one assessor in Saint Louis County said sadly, "We used to mine iron ore, now we mine lake shore."

- The rejection of the Draft Shoreline Rules by Governor Pawlenty and difficulty in advancing these rules during the last three legislative sessions is evidence that regulation alone cannot protect our waters;
- Rules are not only expensive and difficult to pass, but they are expensive to enforce, putting additional strain on already tight local government budgets;
- Local boards of appeal regularly give variances believing, incorrectly, that promoting questionable development strengthens their local economy;⁵
- Even with the unprecedented influx of Legacy Amendment dollars being used to protect land through acquisition, Minnesota cannot buy all of the land needed to preserve our water quality and critical forest habitats;
- New rules do nothing to restore already degraded properties.

Minnesota must stop mining its forests and shorelines for revenue. We need incentives to promote healthy stewardship of a resource that supports a \$4 billion industry, our lakes and rivers.

To be effective incentives must be:

- Revenue neutral to local and state governments;
- Large enough to change behavior and turn shoreline consumers into shoreline conservationists;
- Fair to all property classes

Preserving Minnesota’s recreational land requires incentives that allow stakeholders to do the socially desirable thing. A good program should be easy and inex-

pensive for the county to administer, and the same amount of taxes for counties must be collected as before.

In 2013 MLR proposed the Sustainable Shoreland Incentive Act, SSIA, that would meet all of these requirements. The plan is not a plan for reducing property taxes. It is a plan to provide incentive for shoreline owners to protect, enhance and restore their shoreline. This will have profound benefits for water quality, fisheries, recreation and aesthetic enjoyment of Minnesota’s ten thousand lakes. But perhaps most importantly, it will help protect Minnesota families.

Other tools remain part of the solution. These include more astute use of local or county zoning. Updating Minnesota’s Minimum Shoreline Rules would help. While income tax benefits make conservation easements attractive to the wealthy, placing a conservation easement on a property typically does not affect the assessed value for property taxes, so there is a strong disincentive for most people to use this tool.

Minnesota has strong incentives to promote wetland and farmland conservation as well as sound forestland stewardship. It is long past time to use this tool to promote sound stewardship of Minnesota’s 90,000 miles of shoreline, more than California, Florida and Hawaii combined.

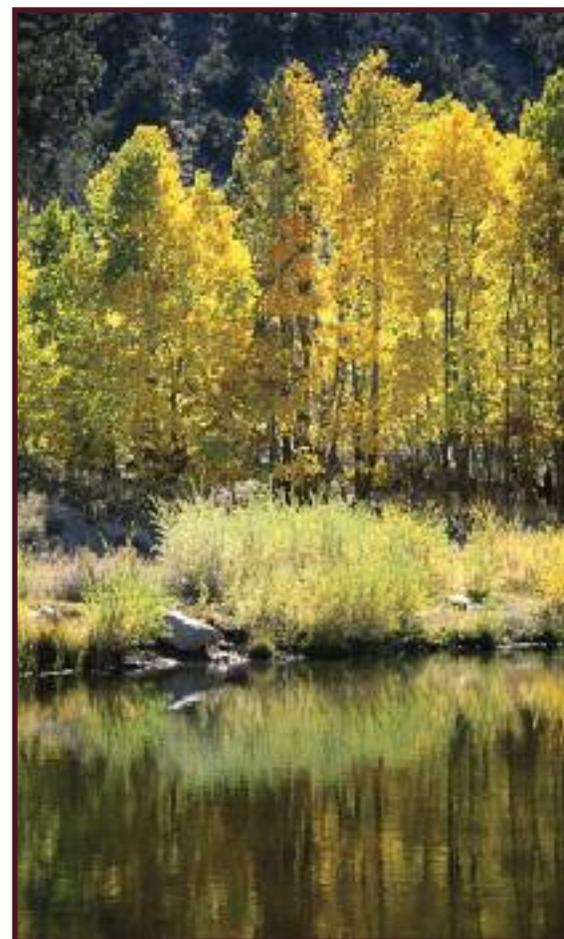
¹ Mundell, J., & Taff, S.J., Kilgore, M.A., Snyder, S.A., “Using real estate records to assess forest land parcelization and development: A Minnesota Case Study,” *Landscape and Urban Planning* 94 (2010) pgs. 71.

² Strizek, Norman, “Study of Minnesota Resident Seasonal Property Ownership in Minnesota,” MSRPO, 2005

³ Mundell, J., & Taff, S.J., Kilgore, M.A., Snyder, S.A., “Using real estate records to assess forest land parcelization and development: A Minnesota Case Study,” *Landscape and Urban Planning* 94 (2010) pgs. 73.

⁴ Rasdomski, Paul, “Historical Changes in Abundance of Floating-Leaf and Emergent Footnote in Minnesota Lakes,” *North American Journal of Fisheries Management* 26:932-940, 2006.)

⁵ The Blog Strong Towns does a good job of debunking this “ [Growth Ponzi Scheme](#).”



County Road (CR) 115

Ojibwa and Nashway Road Project Scoping
| By Timothy Bray, Crow Wing County Engineer |

The North Long Lake Association's representative on this working group is Jim Cook and the representative of the Round Lake Association is Dick Sobiech

Years of increasing traffic volumes, inadequate drainage, and inconsistent roadway maintenance has left County Road (CR) 115 in very poor condition. The lack of an adequate funding source has resulted in delays to correct several roadway deficiencies. In the absence of a dedicated funding stream, little has been done with regard to the detailed planning required to develop an actual project.

Traditionally the range of suggested alternatives has spanned from a simple resurfacing project to a very robust improvement with equally robust engineering design standards. The associated cost of these has been expressed in figures between two and eight million dollars. Much of this range of options remains valid today except on the very low end of the alternative spectrum. Allowing a simple resurfacing project without adequately addressing the challenges related to safety, traffic volumes, and environmental impacts would be irresponsible and a poor investment of public funds.

Beginning this spring, Crow Wing County will initiate an official process to determine what components should be included in a future CR 115 improvement project. This process, referred to as scoping, will include an active effort to solicit input from many sources including residents and other users of CR 115. Elected officials, representatives from regulatory agencies, and other public stakeholders will also be invited to participate.

The end result of the scoping process will be a report called the Decision Scoping Document. This product is intended to capture all of the potential challenges and define a project purpose and need. It is also intended to document the decision making process and analysis required to refine a very broad range of existing alternatives down to those that meet the project's purpose.

The entire process will be developed utilizing an open public involvement process lead by Crow Wing County Project Manager Luke Wehseler. Each alternative contained in the final report will include enough technical data in order that the design phase can be initiated soon after a funding source is identified. Planning level estimates will be developed in order to complement outside grant applications or other potential funding sources.

The first step of the scoping process will be to research and organize all available technical data such as traffic volumes, existing roadway geometry, property lines, and other survey data. This information will be used to help better define the many challenges that a CR 115 project will face. The highway department staff is best suited to gather most of this technical data and will compile it into one document called the Draft Decision Scoping Document. All stakeholders will be invited to review this document and provide additional information to be considered. Two or more public meetings will be conducted throughout the process in order to share and gather information.

In the beginning of April 2013 the Project Manager will begin the process of organizing a Task Force group made up of several key project stakeholders. This committee will include representatives designated by each lake association and others that can provide constructive input and disseminate information to others with interest in this project.

It is requested that each association begin the process of determining their representatives. The first meeting of this group is anticipated to be in May 2013 and coincide with the initial release of the Draft Decision Scoping Document.

A project website has already been created for the CR 115 scoping process. It is intended to be the primary means by which project documents and other information is disseminated for this process. Please visit: <http://www.co.crowwing.mn.us/index.aspx?nid=696>

In the coming weeks area residents will be mailed more information about this process and receive a personal invitation to participate in the first open house. As county personnel begin to gather topographic information for this study, a need to access private property may arise. In most cases this access will be limited to areas in the immediate vicinity of the roadway. If a situation develops, where more extensive access is required, every effort will be made to contact the property owner first. At no time will access to any dwelling or structure be required. If residents experience anything suspicious, they are encouraged to contact the proper authorities.

If there are any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me directly. 218-824-1110.



On Ojibwa Road, CR 115

NEWS & NOTES

Round Lake

ROUND LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT AND ASSOCIATION

Annual Meeting and Summer Picnic

Bring the family – Bring your grandchildren. Meet your Neighbors, Great Bar-B-Que.
Please bring a dish to pass around! Bring your lawn chair.

Saturday, June 29 • Starting at 12:00 noon

At the home of Bernice Slupe
5446 Ojibwa Road



NEWS & NOTES

Round Lake

SALE AROUND ROUND

Saturday, June 1, 2013



Everyone living on County Road 115 is invited to participate!

Garage sale shoppers look forward to this BIG sale! Clean out that basement, garage, and closet and sell your treasures to someone else. If you would like to participate, please fill out the form below and return it along with your check for \$10.00 payable to the Round Lake Association (RLIA). A garage sale sign will be delivered to you which will identify you as a paid participant in this event. The money we collect is used to pay for advertising and signs. This is meant to be a break even event for us. If you have any questions, call Linda Esser, 963-2752.

Please mail your check for \$10.00 with this form by Friday, May 24, 2013 to:
RLIA, PO Box 378, Nisswa, MN 56468

Name _____

Lake Address _____

Lake Phone _____ Cell Phone _____



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NEWS & NOTES

Round Lake

Round Lake Board Vacancies

The Round Lake Improvement Association/District has two openings. The two board members whose terms are up are Scott Fisher and Mark Parrish. Both of these board members have agreed to accept nominations for another three-year term.

It should be pointed out that the Annual Picnic/Meeting on June 29th, 2013 is for

both the RLIA and the RLID. In accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Lake Improvement Districts must open their board elections and annual meetings to all property owners. In addition, provisions must be made for the casting of ballots for those not able to attend the annual meeting. Candidates who have agreed to nominations are listed on the ballot and we will also accept write in candidates.

MAIL BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JUNE 21ST. Please remember, one vote per property. Be sure to include your lake address so we can validate your ballot. Additional nominations for board positions will be accepted from Round Lake property owners at the annual meeting. However, please obtain prior approval from the nominee if they will not be in attendance.

ROUND LAKE BOARD MEMBER BALLOT (vote for 2) : Mark Parrish Scott Fisher

Voter's Name _____

Lake Address _____

Phone: _____ Signature: _____

Mail to: Round Lake Ballot, P.O. Box 378, Nisswa, MN 56468

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7 days-a-week.

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EssentiaHealth.org/BaxterClinicUrgentCare

Current Walk-in
Wait Time

00:11

hours : minutes

As of 10:05:12 PM EST PM

Wait times are approximate and provided
for informational purposes only. If you see
having a medical emergency, call 911

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Essentia Health St. Joseph's-Baxter Clinic
13060 Isle Drive | Baxter, MN 56425

Mon-Fri | 8am – 8pm

Sat | 9am – 3pm

Sun | 11am – 3pm



Essentia Health
Here with you

NEWS & NOTES

Round Lake

Membership Renewal - Round Lake Improvement Association

It is that time of the year to renew your membership in our association. Since our fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30, membership will be for the same time period. In the past, some members have renewed on a calendar year basis. For the sake of simplifying our recordkeeping, we are asking all members to renew at this time of the year. We will no longer have a membership renewal article in our fall newsletter.

Our membership categories are as follows:

Owl \$25 - \$49.99

Hawk \$50 - 74.99

Osprey \$75 - 99.99

Eagle \$100 or more

All contributions will be acknowledged in our newsletter. If you have a question regarding your membership payment, please contact Linda Esser, 963-2752.

RLIA WORKING FOR YOU – FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

Please make checks payable to:
Round Lake Improvement Association, P.O. Box 378, Nisswa, MN 56468

Name _____

Lake Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Other Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone: _____ Lake Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email address: _____

THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY: 10/24/2012-3/31/2013

Owl: \$25 - \$49.99

Vern Fargo

Dale Gatz

John and Laurie Majka

Jeffrey Parks

Hawk: \$50 - \$74.99

Vicki and Rodd Field/Frye

Gary and Verna Walton

Eagle: \$100 and over

Bernie and Linda Roberts

ATTENTION ALL ROUND LAKE RESIDENTS

We maintain an email list of Round Lake residents and use this to provide information on various items like spraying of tent caterpillars, County Rd 115 study, lost skis, etc. If you got the tent caterpillar email, you are up to date on our list. If you did not, then we do not have your email address or we have an incorrect address. Please keep us up to date with your current email address. To do this, send an email to essersplace@charter.net. You do not need to be a member of the Round Lake Improvement Assn to be included on this email list.

NEWS & NOTES

Round Lake

Round Lake Improvement District

INCOME & EXPENSE REPORT 1/1/2012 - 12/31/2012

1/1/2012 Balance		\$37,277.54
Revenues		\$38,755.47
Expenditures:		
Paid to:	Purpose:	
MCIT	Insurance required by County-2012	\$1,908.00
Crow Wing County	County Administration fee	\$250.00
AWResearch	SugarBushCreek-remove sediment& repair Clemson levelers	\$4,943.88
AWResearch	Summer TSI	\$200.00
Clarke	Treat curly leaf pondweed	\$2,516.91
AWResearch	Curly Leaf Pondweed mapping overflight	\$1,332.80
MCIT	Insurance required by County-2013	\$1,843.00
Total Expenditures:		\$12,994.59
12/31/2012 Balance		\$63,038.42

Round Lake Improvement Association

Income & Expense Statement
7/1/2012 through 3/31/2013

INCOME	
Clothing	\$640.00
Interest Inc:	
Dredging Funds	\$159.21
Other Interest Inc	\$12.19
TOTAL Interest Inc	\$171.40
Meat from Picnic	\$75.00
Membership Dues	\$6,186.00
Tent Caterpillar Spraying	\$3,864.50
TOTAL INCOME	\$10,936.90
EXPENSES	
Bank Charge	\$16.95
Buoys	\$424.67
Insurance	\$450.00
mailbox fee	\$44.00
Misc	\$60.00
Picnic	\$85.00
Professional Fees	\$250.00
Sale Around Round	\$15.00
Stamps	\$24.60
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,370.22
OVERALL TOTAL	\$9,566.68

Round Lake Improvement Association NET WORTH

As of 3/31/2013

	Balance 6/30/2012	Balance 3/31/2013
ASSETS		
CD Designated Funds		
Dredging	\$29,095.28	\$29,204.49
Checking	\$8,517.92	\$14,070.51
Savings	\$5,511.39	\$5,518.72
Special Projects		
Checking	\$-	\$3,847.55
Svngs Dredging Funds	\$50.52	\$100.52
TOTAL ASSETS	\$43,175.11	\$52,741.79
LIABILITIES		
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$-	\$-
OVERALL TOTAL	\$43,175.11	\$52,741.79

NEWS & NOTES

North Long Lake Annual Picnic and Business Meeting

NORTH LONG LAKE PIC-A-NIC
SATURDAY, JULY 20

Guest Speakers
DOOR PRIZES, LAKE CLOTHING AND MEMORABILIA SALE
BRATS, HOT DOGS, POTATO SALAD, FIXIN'S

LEGIONVILLE ON MERRIFIELD BAY

BUSINESS MEETING AND BOARD ELECTIONS BY BALLOT: 10:30 A.M.
(Board elections will also be announced by mail)
Eats: 12:00 noon



NEWS & NOTES

North Long Lake

NLLA Board Transitions and Coming Election

Three members of the Board of Directors have resigned over the last six months: **Dan Wilson, Sue Kumpula, and Mike McMenimen.** Dan was the “newest” member of the Board to leave, having been elected in 2004. His service in numerous capacities – interagency liaison, our earliest committee on invasive species prevention, and host/cook at the annual picnic – is gratefully appreciated. His leaving the Board was necessitated by his family’s decision to sell their lake home and move elsewhere in the community. Sue Kumpula was a Board member for 13 years, having been elected in 2000. She served her first year as Vice-President of the Board, and then for 12 years, first as Secretary-Treasurer and then Treasurer, at the same time continuing her long service on the History Project. Mike McMenimen joined the Board in 1995 and was one of its staunchest members. He was a member of the Association’s team of water testers, sampling the Big Lake once a month from May through September every year. He was a member of the Audit Committee for a long period and cooked and hosted at the annual

picnic every season. The service given to the Association by these individuals was marked by the highest regard for the welfare of the lake and warm collegiality.

Early last fall, **Bill Schmidt** was appointed to the Board to take Dan Wilson’s seat for one year. In April, with the resignation of Sue and Mike, two homeowners on the Big Lake were appointed to fill out their terms — which end at the Annual Meeting in July: **Bret Strange**, who is the semi-retired owner of Advanced Pest Control in Brainerd, is devoted to the welfare of the lake and has significant knowledge of its history and personality; and **Mark Johnson**, a cardiologist who practices in Brainerd, and who has lived on the Big Lake for a number of years. These three members of the Board will stand for election at the annual meeting; others who wish their names to appear on the ballot are urged to contact President Hondo or any member of the Board prior to July 1.

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The Lemieux-Johnson Financial Group Team (left to right):
*Buford Johnson, Diane Rook-Johnson,
Brian Lemieux, Jacki Lemieux*



NEWS & NOTES

North Long Lake

North Long Lake Membership Report | By Kay Hondo |

By the end of 2012, we had received payments of \$18,192 from 294 members. This was the largest number of members in NLLA history – over 50% of homeowners on our mailing list! Dues received were \$8,015 while donations to the Invasive Species Fund were \$10,177. Due to the generosity of our members, we were able to meet our commitments to pay for boat inspectors as well as expenses for tracking our curly leaf pondweed infestation.

By the end of April, 2012, dues of \$1,700 and AIS donations of \$2,425 were received from 55 members. By the end of April, 2013, we have received dues of \$1,875 and AIS funds of \$3,365 from 76 members. This shows us that we are somewhat ahead of the numbers at this time last year.

To those of you who have already sent in your 2013 dues, we appreciate your continued support! If you *haven't* paid this year's dues (along with invasive species contributions) it is a good time to mail them in. Not sure if you already paid? Check your address label on this newsletter - if you don't see "2013" in the upper right hand corner – this would indicate that you haven't paid your dues yet. If you have not regularly been an association member, now is the time to make the decision to join your neighbors in our uphill battle to protect *your* lake. Please use the membership form provided in this publication or you can download a form from: www.northlong.com . Remember, contributions are tax deductible (see dues statement below). Thank you!



NORTH LONG LAKE 2013 MEMBERSHIP DUES STATEMENT



We hope this Newsletter will convince you that investment in a membership in the North Long Lake Association is a good deal. The more members we enroll, the better positioned we are to fight the invasive species that are ever-threatening. **NO OTHER ORGANIZATION IS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WELFARE OF NORTH LONG LAKE. WE ARE THE FRONTLINE.** Please join us so the Association represents ALL homeowners on the lake!!

You can use THIS FORM to provide the information about yourself that we need and send it with your 2013 dues to the address indicated. Please be as generous as you can with contributions to the Invasive Species Fund. This is the only resource we have currently to use in requesting "in kind" support for boat inspections and treatment control of these species. Remember that these contributions are TAX DEDUCTIBLE! *Thank you!!*

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Lake address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Lake Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Cell Phone: _____

2013 Dues: \$25.00

+ Invasive Species Fund _____

= Total Contribution: _____

Please make checks payable to:

North Long Lake Association
P.O. Box 54
Merrifield, MN 56465

NEWS & NOTES

North Long Lake

North Long Lake Association Financial Statement 1/1/2012 - 12/31/2012

I. Total beginning balance \$23,123.86

II. Checking Account

Beginning balance \$6076.42

Revenue

Membership Dues 8,195.00
 Donations for Invasive Species 9,276.00
 Clothing Sales 263.00
 Interest Earnings 1.17
Total 17,735.17

Disbursements/Expenses

Invasive Species Inspectors 7,616.45
 Operating Supplies 156.50
 Annual Picnic 1,507.21
 Real Estate Taxes 29.78
 Newsletter 73.36
 NLLA Clothing 880.10

Water Testing 566.00
 Website 547.00
 Liability Insurance 450.00
 Dues & Subscriptions 400.00
 Professional Services 1,090.35
Total 13,316.75

Ending Balance \$10,494.84

III. Savings Account

Beginning balance \$17,047.44

Revenue

Interest 13.66

Ending balance \$17,061.10

IV. Total ending balance \$27,555.94

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NEWS & NOTES

North Long Lake North Long Lake Clothing and More

| By Deb Johnson and Fran Cronin |



Look what's new! North Long Lake has its own stylish 16 oz insulated drink tumbler available for you this year. We have commissioned a beautiful new logo that will make entertaining at your North Long Lake home or cabin the talk of your gathering. They will make great gifts too. The tumblers are from Signature Tumbler of Minnetonka, MN and carry a lifetime replacement guarantee. They will be available for sale at the picnic for \$14 each, or if you wish, you can order ahead of time by calling Deb or Fran.

And as usual, all of the same clothing items that have been available will still be available to you. Most items will be by special order. It is becoming increasingly difficult for us to maintain an inventory of items that meet the needs of our customers. We have found that special orders work well

for us. There is a wide range of styles and colors always available. Orders are filled in two weeks and every effort is made to allow for easy pickup or delivery when the orders are ready.

All of the profits that we earn are dedicated to the Aquatic Invasive Species fund maintained by the North Long Lake Association. We make every effort to find ways to support our lake association and contribute to community spirit. We hope you will support us again this year with your purchases of clothing and our new logo tumblers.

We hope you enjoy the seasons on North Long Lake in style! If you wish to contact us or preorder items please call us. Deb Johnson, 612-384-0895. Fran Cronin, 763-427-5636.

Editor note.— Advanced word is that these new tumblers are terrific!

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