

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Living on Lake Latoka causes us to come one conclusion – we are truly blessed. Waking up to that awesome view of the lake that each of the four seasons affords us can only be termed a blessing. But this blessing does not come without some responsibilities. Each of us living on the lake must do all we can to assure that our beautiful lake continues to be healthy and beautiful, free of invasive species such as Zebra Mussels, Eurasian Milfoil, Curly-leaf Pondweed, etc. Each and every one of us must do everything in our power to keep the lake clean and healthy by protecting and conserving our wetlands, bluffs and steep slopes, our shoreland, our native aquatic vegetation and our wildlife. That's what your Lake Latoka Property Owner's Association (LLPOA) board does...actively looking for ways to protect each of our investment of owning property on this beautiful lake by working cooperatively with our local, county and state governmental agencies to assure that lakeshore development meets the highest codes to protect erosion and the negative effects of phosphorus runoff. We are members of the Douglas County Lake Association (DCLA) which monitors and keeps us abreast of all the changes that our local, county and state governmental agencies are proposing that could affect the lakes, and, as a united group, apply for grant monies to prevent the spread of Zebra Mussels and other invasive species.

The LLPOA consists of nine board members. We are blessed to have these individuals volunteer to share their gifts and talents to assure that everything is being done to maintain the quality of our lake and the recreational use we all enjoy. However, two of the board members will be stepping down this year, some have served over seven years because of their dedication and desire to keep Lake Latoka clean and healthy. Now, we are asking you, members and owners of property on this beautiful lake, to step up and say "YES" to serving a term on the board. Some of the responses we have received in the past are: "We don't have the time." Let me put this myth to rest. We meet only once a month (not in December) for about 1 ½ to 2 hours in the evening at 7:00 PM. If you have a conflict that night or are out of town traveling the night of the meeting, no big deal! There are no fines, penalties, shuns, etc. All of us have these situations because of our busy lives. The meeting goes on. Another myth is: "I don't like to get involved with politics. Yes, we are working closely with local governments such as Land and Resource, DNR, etc. But these are all good people and great to work with. No politics, no protest signs, etc. You are all blessed with some gifts and talents that you can bring to the table. And you will find the friendship and camaraderie on the board very rewarding. So, please say "YES" to serving a term on the LLPOA Board.

And, as paid members, I want you to be aware and say a big "THANK YOU" to the other volunteers who have stepped forward with their time and talents in other ways. **Vern Lorsung** and **Rich Braun** are members of the Water Quality Monitor Committee. Vern gathers water samples from both lakes and sends them into a lab in Detroit Lakes that monitor the water for Phosphorus and Chlorophyll. Rich has been providing Secchi Disk readings for water clarity. Thanks, Vern and Rich for your years of service. And notice how the loon nests appear in Pearson's Bay every year providing critical nesting for our loons? They don't just magically appear. **Dave Prentice** and **Brian Reynolds** have volunteered and been faithfully dedicated in putting them in every Spring and taking them out and storing them every Fall. Again, thanks Dave and Brian for your dedication.

The interest in the July 4th Boat Parade had been slowly dying. Not any more. **Gary and Glenna Gibbons** have stepped forward and are dedicated to bringing new life into the parade and making the 2011 July 4th Boat Parade the best ever. Watch for later announcements. Thanks Gary and Glenna for stepping forward and sharing your time and talents. **Karen Cook** has been our designated representative for Lake Latoka at the Douglas County Lakes Association (DCLA) meetings. She faithfully attends the monthly meetings, takes notes and reports to the board. Thanks Karen for your dedication. **Sue Orpen** served 10 years as Treasurer on the LLPOA board. She still is serving the lake by being a greeter for new buyers of property on Big Lake Latoka. She also keeps our data base mailing list. Thanks Sue for serv-

DCLA

The DCLA recently received the Environmental Education Award at the Soil and Water convention. This award recognizes outstanding educational efforts. In this case, it was the DCLA's effort to raise awareness and prevent the spreading of aquatic invasive species. The focus was on zebra mussels. The boat monitoring that was done last summer has been put into a report form available on the DCLA website - dclamn.org. This data shows how many boats were going in and out of the water, where they were from, knowledge of invasive species, etc. Some of it is very frustrating. The Alexandria area is considered to be the "greatest spreader" of zebra mussels in the state, which is not a good title to have. The main factor is the number of lakes we have and our location - "Easy to get to - hard to leave."

It's time to start thinking about spring lake projects. In 2008, the Latoka Lake Assn. purchased the book, "Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality" by Carol Henderson. This book was given to the library for all to use. There are two copies. Only the copy we purchased has the DNR CD, "Restore Your Shore" inside the back cover. Emily at Soil and Water is a very good resource person willing to help you with any ideas you might have. (763-3191) There are matching grants available

DCLA received a grant from Tastefully Simple to be used for publishing two newsletters. These newsletters will be mailed to all lake property owners in Douglas County. There are several lakes that do not have active associations or newsletters.

Another website you might be interested in is the RMB lab site - www.rmbel.info. This is the lab we use for water monitoring statistics, located in Detroit Lakes. Select Lake Programs and then Lake Database and by putting in your county and lake, you will get all the stats about Latoka since 1998. Rich Braun and Vern Lorsung have been doing the monitoring.

KXRA Open Line will again offer us a time slot one day a month to discuss lake issues. It will be the second Thursday of each month at 9:05. Adam Hjelm from the Sauk River Watershed will be the first presenter, May will be someone from the Water Patrol and Nathan Olson DNR will be on in June.

Karen Cook
DCLA Rep

SAVE THIS DATE

SEPTEMBER 10, 2011

LAKE LATOKA ANNUAL POTLUCK PICNIC

FIREMAN'S LODGE HALL.....11:30 AM

**Bring a casserole, a salad or a dessert to share.
Eating utensils, buns and beverages will be provided.**