

YOUR ASSOCIATION

Board Members

Mike Busian (Vice President & Little Latoka Greeter) 300 West 5 th St. Morris, MN 56267	mbusian@info-link.net 320-589-2495 (Morris) or 4738 County Shores, Alex 320-760-1556 (Cell)	April 2009 – April 2012
Jim Eveslage 483 W. Latoka Dr. SW	jjevaslage@embarqmail.com 320-763-4964	April 2011 – April 2014
Bob Friederichs 3400 Latoka Bay Rd SW	rbfried@gctel.net 320-762-7956	April 2010 – April 2013
Myrna Hunt 1118 Firemen's Lodge Road	kaimyrna@charter.net 320-762-1420	April 2011 – April 2014
Natalie Johnson 1002 Firemen's Lodge Road	sunsetnat@charter.net 320-763-4725	November 2010 – April 2013
Harlan Karlstad 793 W. Latoka Dr. SW	harlan@alextel.net 320-763-6290	April 2011 – April 2014
Harvey Kranzler (Treasurer & Water Quality) 1231 W. Latoka Dr. SW	hkranzler@gmail.com 320-763-9763	April 2011 – April 2014
Greg Peterson, (President and Fishing Committee Chair) 3807 Forest Park Rd. SW	gep_1@msn.com 320-759-7226	April 2011 – April 2013
Linda Petty (Secretary & Website Liaison) 3730 Iona Way SW	rlpetty@gctel.net 320-762-8707, 320-760-9222	April 2009 – April 2012

Other Volunteers

Vern Lorsung	vernsung@rea-alo.com 320-763-3892	Water Quality Monitor
Rich Braun	rbraun@rea-alo.com 320-762-8468	Water Quality Monitor
Sue Orpen	sorpen@charter.net 320-762-1708	Greeter for Big Lake Latoka Data Base Manager for Mailing List
Karen Cook	kcook@gctel.net 320-762-8188	Greeter for Big Lake Latoka
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Kathleen Lingor	klingor@wisper-wireless.com 320-762-0787	Newsletter Coordinators
Gloria Deick	ggdeick@charter.net 762-2538	
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Joan Akkerman	320-759-1557	North & South Sign Box Coordinator
Dave Prentice & Brian Reynolds		In charge of Loon Nests
Gary & Glenna Gibbons	ggibs@embarqmail.com 759-7614	4 th of July Boat Parade Coordinators
Greg Peterson Dave Sailor	320-759-7226 320-759-3060	Ice Monitors

LAKE LATOKA WEBSITE: <http://www.latokaassociation.org/>

A Publication of the
Lake Latoka Property
Owners Association



October 2011

LATOKA LOON RAMBLINGS

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

We had our annual picnic on September 10. It was a beautiful day and we had a good turnout. This personally was the first time I have been able to attend our annual picnic and it was really nice to meet some new people from LLPOA. Thanks to all the board members for the help in making the day a success. There were 58 members who signed in and I would suspect a few more who didn't. Good food was shared by all!!

This was a year of new challenges. The ever-approaching danger of zebra mussels looms over our heads. Our neighboring lakes, Cowdry and Brophy, have now been put on the list of infested waters. The fact that they are right across the street makes it a bit more frightening. Please be vigilant in making sure all water is out of your motor, bait wells and hulls before launching into our lake.

The second challenge of the year was the high water and the "No Wake" ordinance imposed on our lake along with many other lakes in our county. If the water drops by next spring, the ordinance will be dropped. This was a topic of some friction among the property owners. Many boaters and jet skiers either were unaware of the ordinance or didn't obey it. Erosion of the lake shore will not benefit any of us.

As I have been on the board for a few years now, I have become very impressed by the amount of participation of lake shore owners in volunteering for the various positions. Many have come and gone and many have served the lake for years. The fact that so many have helped out is a reflection of your love of the lake and your commitment to help out. On behalf of myself and the lake shore owners, I want to thank all of you who over the twenty years of the LLPOA have helped to make the lake a better place to live. Having said this, we always want your continued participation and value your comments or concerns. We, as the board members, are here to represent you. If you have a concern, the only way for us to know it is if you express it. You can contact us directly, by email, or by going to our website at www.latokaassociation.org and submitting a comment.

Wishing one and all a great winter!!

Greg Peterson

A BURNING REMINDER

Every fall we all have to deal with fallen leaves. Please remember that you cannot burn leaves within 100' of the lake. The county ordinance reads: Burning shall be prohibited within 100 feet of the ordinary high water high water mark of a recreational lake. A wood burning campfire less than 3 feet in diameter designed to enclose ash for removal would be exempt from this rule.

Failure to follow these guidelines is considered a misdemeanor. The fine could be \$750

We have had requests from lake residents to remind you not to rake the leaves into the lake, but remove as many as you can from the lake. If you are giving your lawn a fall fertilizer treatment, you can only use non-phosphorus fertilizer.



Lake Latoka Property
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Inside this issue:

TO USE OR NOT TO USE ZEQUANOX?

Sometime in the next few years you might be asked to vote for or against using zequanox in Lake Latoka for the purpose of killing zebra mussels. We currently do not have zebra mussels in this lake, but you should keep informed about this product. I have tried to answer some of the more commonly asked questions. If you want more information, call me and I will try to find the answer for you.

1. What is zequanox?

It is a biopesticide, a green pesticide that is made up of "naturally occurring dead bacteria" that if eaten by zebra mussels, kills them without harming the surrounding ecosystem.

2. Who discovered it?

Dr. Dan Malloy, a research scientist, was given a grant by the utility companies in New York to find a "green" product that they could use to clean out clogged in-take pipes. It wasn't originally intended for open waters, including lakes and streams.

3. When can infested lakes start using zequanox?

On September 14, 2011, zequanox was approved by the EPA with the highest rating for being safe. Testing in open water has not yet started. Just because it works for cleaning out pipes does not mean it will work in lakes and streams without a lot of "tweaking" and more testing.

4. When will the testing start?

The testing will start whenever the money is available. Douglas County Lake Association has applied for a grant for testing in area lakes. If that grant is received, the testing could start next spring. The testing will start out small, perhaps in a gallon jar and if that works, proceed into larger areas. It WILL NOT just be dumped into a lake to see the results.

5. Why do we have to pay for the testing? Shouldn't the company that makes the product pay for the testing?

That's the way it usually happens, but in this case this is a small company and its paying customers are the New York utility companies. If we don't pay for the testing, it could be another 10 years before they start testing in lakes. Do we want to wait that long?

6. What will it cost lake associations?

For now, the testing will not be an association expense. If it is found to be a product that can be used in lakes, there could be money involved if they decide to use it to rid the lake of zebra mussels.

7. What other products kill zebra mussels?

Presently, there are no other "green" products available. There are other products that kill the mussels, but they also kill everything else.

Karen Cook DCLA rep

MINNESOTA CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER

The Volunteer is a small magazine with great pictures and articles concerning Minnesota waters, woods, birds and prairies. It is a free publication to anyone who requests it and relies entirely on donations from its readers. They can be contacted at:

**Minnesota Conservation Volunteer, Department of Natural Resources,
500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4046**

Winter on Lake Latoka

We will soon be past the beautiful days of fall and winter enthusiasts will be looking forward to enjoying some time on the ice. As we use the ice, it is important that we all stay safe and help keep Latoka beautiful. We've all seen charts on ice safety, but just as a reminder, keep the following in mind as a guideline:

For New, Clear Ice Only:	2" or less - STAY OFF
	4" - Ice fishing or other activities on foot
	5" - Snowmobile or ATV
	8" - 12" - Car or small pickup
	12" - 15" - Medium truck



Remember that these thicknesses are merely guidelines for new, clear, solid ice. Many factors other than thickness can cause ice to be unsafe.

Following are some other safety tips for ice fishing (From Rich Greenough's Ice Fishing Seminar)

- Attach a long cord to your sled. Not only does this make the sled easier to pull but should some one fall through the ice you can push the sled to them holding onto the line.
- Carry two picks - spikes protruding from wooden hand holds - to help pull your way out if you should fall in.
- If you should fall through the ice, once you spike your way out or are pulled out, don't stand - roll across the ice in the direction you came.
- Carry a throwable seat cushion. It'll add to your seating comfort and give you something throw to someone fallen through.
- Keep your auger covered. The blades are sharp, and can easily cut you, your dog or your children.
- Spray vegetable oil on your auger and snowshoes. Snow won't stick and you won't cut yourself cleaning off the show.
- Wear creepers. Slip on, or spiked shoes will keep you from slipping and falling on the ice.

Finally, remember your ice fishing etiquette. The following article by Jim Scott is from the Lake Latoka website: *"Last June, at the annual LLPOA meeting, some negative comments were made regarding the behavior of a few ice-fishermen that litter the area around their fish-houses. I would encourage all the hard water fishermen that live on Lake Latoka to set a good example for others to follow. A friendly reminder to those few who have forgotten their manners should eliminate the mess on the ice that ultimately sinks to the bottom of our lake. If the friendly reminder doesn't work, give one of our monitors a call with the registration number of the messy fish house. They will gladly see that the proper authorities are notified. Greg Peterson (759-7226) has volunteered to monitor the big lake. Dave Sailor (759-3060) has volunteered to monitor the little lake."*

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS FOR LAKE SHORE OWNERS

DOUGLAS COUNTY LAND AND RESOURCE

DAVID RUSH - DIRECTOR 320-762-3863

DEPARTMENT NATURAL RESOURCES

DEAN BECK - AREA FISHERIES SUPERVISOR 320-634-4573

LESLIE GEORGE - AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT 320-634-4573

MIKE SHELDEN - REGULATION ENFORCEMENT 320-762-1046

DOUGLAS COUNTY SHERIFF & WATER PATROL

WATER SAFETY ENFORCEMENT 320-762-8151



WALLEYE STOCKING UPDATE

Having personally not fished walleyes on our lake this summer, I can't give you a report on success out of my boat. I have, however, received reports, either first hand or second hand, of increased catch rates for the year. A couple of the reports have been pretty impressive! I'm certainly encouraged by what I have heard, and it surely makes it easier to go out knowing that the chances of catching a few walleyes have increased greatly over the last several years.

I mainly ice fish for walleyes on our lake and I can't wait for the hard water season to begin!! Last spring I reported having good success almost every time I went out, catching between two and four fish. The fish were mostly the smaller variety, but it surely was fun to catch them. Hopefully, by this winter there will be more that can be brought back to the house for a meal. It certainly is a nice feeling to live on a lake where you can go down to the dock, get in your boat or run out to the ice fish house and have the opportunity to catch a few fish, instead of sitting there for hours and not having a bite!!

As of this date, there are no firm dates set up for another supplemental stocking. The intention would be to do another stocking, but as of right now the Viking Sportsmen's Club hasn't received their contribution from the Hotel and Hospitality Association, but they should have the monies shortly. Until the monies are available, no firm plans will be made. An email will be sent out once a date and the amount of fish have been determined.

Once again, I wish to thank all the property owners who have contributed to the cause. Thanks to Gary Deick for all his hard work in starting the program and getting the ball rolling. When the stocking efforts were begun, there were no guarantees of success, but the catch rates are a sure indication we are heading in the right direction. It will only get better in the future if we keep it going!! Thanks again

Greg Peterson

Thank You

The Lake Latoka Property Owners Association board takes this opportunity to publicly thank Rich Braun for his 20 years of reliable volunteer service in conducting Secchi disc reading on our lake. Thank you, from all property owners, Rich, for graciously performing this task for so many years.

We are now in need of a new volunteer to perform the Secchi disc readings. The "job" has two components. On the third Monday of June, July and August and the first and third Monday in September, Rich accompanies Vern Lorsung out on the lake to assist in obtaining water samples at specific areas of the lake. Also at that time, Rich does the Secchi disc reading. Secondly, Rich goes out a second time each month from ice out to October 1st to take an additional Secchi disc reading. As an additional item of historical interest, Rich has been recording "ice-out" and "ice-over" readings for property owner's reference.

Rich informs us that he is willing to go out with and instruct a new person on the procedure used to obtain these readings. We need your help so please volunteer. Please call any board member (contact information on the back page of this newsletter) to volunteer.



KEEPING IN TOUCH



Your Association Board feels it is important to keep in touch with its members throughout the year and have three official ways of communicating with you.

1. Your newsletter – currently the newsletter is being published semiannually.
2. Via e-mail – throughout the year, the Association uses e-mail to update you on issues that come up between newsletters, as reminders of upcoming events, and as a tool for informing you of lost and found items, such as inflatables that drift away during windstorms.
3. Through our web page – if you have not checked it out lately, please take this opportunity to go to www.latokaassociation.org. The website is an easy-to-access source where you can find contact information, pictures of past activities, and notices about upcoming events.

A primary goal of the Association is to protect and preserve our beautiful lake, but it also serves as building a community of neighbors. In order to do this, we need keep our information up-to-date. Sue Orpen does a wonderful job of keeping our database for our newsletters, directories and for sending representatives to greet new lakeshore owners. Please contact her at 320-762-1708 or sorpen@charter.net:

1. If you own a vacation home on Lake Latoka, but have changed your mailing address;
2. If you have sold your property on Lake Latoka
3. If you know of any property that has changed hands on the lake (even if you don't know the new owner's name)

Marge Hammerschmidt (mhammerLL1@msn.com) maintains the electronic database. If you have not provided her with your e-mail address, or if it has changed, please contact her with the information so that you can stay in the loop. To maintain your privacy, all e-mails are sent out using the 'blind carbon copy' so that your address is not visible to anyone else. You can also contact the lake association directly at lakelatoka@hotmail.com.

Some members have suggested that we start sending our newsletters out by e-mail. We did consider doing an e-mail version this time to those for whom we have e-mail addresses; however, since we are also trying to distribute directories and brochures about ordering t-shirts, we decided it would not be any advantage this time. Our spring newsletter contains an envelope for remitting your dues so that one, too, may continue to go by regular mail. In the meantime, if you use e-mail, we would appreciate your feedback on whether you would like to see your newsletter sent via e-mail or continue receiving it by mail. You can send your comments to lakelatoka@hotmail.com, call a Board member, or express your wishes at the annual meeting.

2011 LAKE LATOKA DIRECTORIES

Speaking of keeping in touch and building community, what better way to do it than through the Association directory. Sue Orpen, Linda Petty and Myrna Hunt have done a great job in compiling the information needed to publish the new directory. Thanks to all three for taking the time to work on this project. The directories will be ready in October and it is the intent that these be delivered in person. An attempt will be made to deliver the directory, this newsletter, and a brochure about ordering t-shirts to each member. If you are receiving this newsletter by mail, that means they did not connect with you when they made the rounds to deliver your directory. If that is the case, you can pick up your directory at the annual meeting in the spring or contact Linda Petty at 762-8707 or 760-9222 or at rlpetty@gctel.net to arrange to pick up your copy.

“OUR LOONS”

Don't you find it interesting how, in spring and fall, all of us who are privileged to live on beautiful Lake Latoka find ourselves eagerly anticipating the night we hear the first hoots and yodels of “our” loons returning to the lake in the spring? And conversely, how sad we feel in the fall when we no longer hear their distinctive calls or see them performing their antics on the lake. We are always thankful for the gift of their presence and the joy they give us throughout our summer. Here are some facts about “our” loons:

- The male is slightly larger than the female, but otherwise the two sexes look identical.
- Its legs are set far back on its body, so it has an awkward gait on land.
- The common loon has four calls. The tremolo, which sounds a bit like maniacal laughter, is an aggressive call. The wail is a long, drawn-out sound. The hoot, a shorter call, is used to communicate among parents and young. The yodel is sounded by male loons guarding their territory (as when we get to close to their nests with our boats or jet skis).
- Loons don't begin breeding until they are three or four years old. The male chooses the territory and attracts a mate.
- Together the male and female build a nest out of reeds and grasses on the edge of the water. They take turns incubating the one to two eggs the female lays in May or June.
- Loon chicks are precocial, able to swim and dive right away, but will often ride on their parents' back during their first 2 weeks to rest, conserve heat, and avoid predators.
- Chicks are fed mainly by their parents for about six weeks but gradually begin to feed themselves over time. By 11 or 12 weeks, chicks gather almost all of their own food and have learned to fly.
- Biologists have extensively studied the mating behavior of the Common Loon. Contrary to popular belief, pairs seldom mate for life. Indeed, a typical adult loon is likely to have several mates during its lifetime because of territorial takeover. Each breeding pair must frequently defend its territory against “floaters” (territory-less adults) trying to evict at least one owner and seize the breeding site. Territories that have produced chicks in the past year are especially prone to takeovers, because nonbreeding loons use chicks as cues to indicate high-quality territories. One-third of all territorial evictions among males result in the death of the owner; in contrast, female loons usually survive. Birds that are displaced from a territory but survive usually try to re-mate and reclaim a breeding territory later in life.
- Loons find their prey by sight. They eat mainly fish, supplemented with amphibians, crustaceans and similar mid-sized aquatic fauna.
- They prefer clear lakes because they can more easily see their prey through the water. The loon uses its pointy bill to stab or grasp prey. They eat vertebrate prey headfirst to facilitate swallowing, and swallow their prey whole.
- To help digestion, loons swallow small pebbles from the bottoms of lakes. Similar to grit eaten by chickens, these gastroliths may assist the loon's gizzard in crushing the hard parts of the loon's food such as the exoskeletons of crustaceans and the bones of frogs and salamanders.
- Loons may inadvertently ingest small lead pellets, released from anglers and hunters, that will contribute to lead poisoning and the loon's eventual death. Jurisdictions that have banned the use of lead shot and sinkers include but are not limited to Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, some areas of Massachusetts, Yellowstone National Park, Great Britain, Canada, Michigan and Denmark.
- Adult loons rarely are eaten by other animals (except bald eagles), but their young can fall prey to skunks, raccoons, foxes, snapping turtles, northern pike, and muskies.
- Loons are found on lakes throughout central and northeastern Minnesota. In September, Minnesota's adult loons travel to their winter home along the Atlantic coast from North Carolina south to Florida, or on the Gulf of Mexico. Younger loons follow a month or so later.
- Minnesota has more loons (roughly 12,000) than any other state except Alaska. Threats to loons include human disturbance and pollutants such as lead and mercury. The DNR monitors loon

populations with the help of volunteers to improve understanding of what our state bird needs to maintain a strong, healthy presence here.

- Loon's lives are filled with fun facts. For example:
 - o The bones of most birds are hollow and light, but loons have solid bones.
 - o The extra weight helps them dive as deep as 250 feet to search for food. They can stay under water for up to five minutes.
 - o Because their bodies are heavy relative to their wing size, loons need a 100 – 600 foot “runway” in order to take off from a lake.
 - o Loons can fly more than 75 miles per hour.
 - o The red in the loon's eye helps it to see under water.
 - o Scientists think loons can live for 30 years or more.

As we reflect on the habits and the magnificence of this great bird it bears posing the question to ourselves “Do I (and those I allow to use my boat or jet ski) use respectful boating and fishing practices/behaviors to assure that ‘our’ loons will be able to ‘maintain a strong and healthy presence’ here on Lake Latoka?” Respect of their nesting sites and territories is paramount to assuring that our children and grandchildren will enjoy the loons as much as we have. Practicing the use of no lead fishing tackle is another key behavior that is vital to the preservation of these great birds on our lake.

We wish our beautiful feathered summer residents safe journeys to warmer waters and we'll be anxious to hear their welcome calls in the spring.

Resources: www.dnr.state.mn.us/birds/commonloon.html and en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loon.

Rich Braun reported that the Secchi Disk reading went from 12 feet on September 12 to 13.5 feet on September 26, which was a significant improvement. Following is a letter he received from the Soil & Water Conservation District about lake quality:

