

YOUR ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

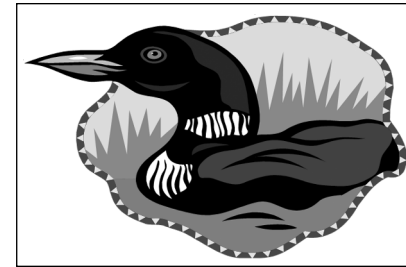
Other Volunteers

Mike Busian (Vice President & Little Latoka Greeter) 300 West 5 th St. Morris, MN 56267 Gary Deick 1005 E. Latoka Dr. SW	mbusian@info-link.net 320-589-2495 (Morris) or 4738 County Shores, Alex 760-1556 (Cell) gdeick@charter.net 762-2538	April 2009 – April 2012 April 2010-March 2013
Bob Friederichs 3400 Latoka Bay Rd SW Harlan Karlstad 793 W. Latoka Dr. SW	rbfried@gctel.net 762-7956 harlank@alextech.edu 763-6290	April 2010-March 2013 April 2010-March 2013
Harvey Kranzler (Treasurer & Water Quality) 1231 W. Latoka Dr. SW Jim Lingor (President) 1375 W. Latoka Dr. SW Greg Peterson, (Fishing Committee Chair) 3807 Forest Park Rd. SW Linda Petty (Secretary & Caterpillar Coordinator) 3730 Iona Way SW	hkranzler@gmail.com 763-9763 jkingor@wisper-wireless.com 762-0787 egp_1@msn.com 759-7226 rlpetty@gctel.net 762-8707, 760-9222	Oct 2008-April 2011 April 2009 – April 2011 April 2009 – April 2012 July 2009 – July 2012

Vern Lorsung	763-3892	vernsung@rea-alp.com	Water Quality Monitor
Rich Braun	762-8468	rbraun@rea-alp.com	Water Quality Monitor
Sue Orpen	762-1708	sorpen@charter.net	Lake Latoka Greeter and Property Ownership / Address List
Karen Cook	762-8188	kcook@gctel.net	Lake Latoka Greeter and DCLA Representative
Wayne Siffing		jslklatoka@charter.net 320-491-2293	Milfoil and Curly Leaf Pondweed Chairman
Open Volunteer Position Newsletter Editor Needed. Marge Hammerschmidt		mhammer111@msn.com 612-803-8278	LLPOA Newsletter Editor E-Mail Correspondent
Joan Akkerman Dave Prentice & Brian Reynolds	759-1557		North & South Sign Box Manager Loon Nest Managers
Gary & Glenna Gibbons	320-759-7614		Annual Boat Parade Directors

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

A Publication of the
Lake Latoka Property
Owners Association



September 2010

LATOKA LOON RAMBLINGS

PIG ROAST POTLUCK

*We will also serve corn on the cob and ice cream treats.
Please bring a dish to share.
Plates, cups & utensils furnished.*

**MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS AROUND THE LAKE!
--BRING YOUR FAMILY--**

**Saturday, September 18 starting at 11am
Fireman's Lodge
1240 Firemen's Lodge Rd SW**

latokaassociation.databae.net
latokalatoka@hotmail.com



Lake Latoka Property
Owners Assn.
PO Box 102
Alexandria, MN 56308

PRSR1 STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 34
ALEXANDRIA, MN

- 7 Shore Land Regulations
- 6 Walleye Stocking Update
- 5 Important Phone Numbers
- 4 Forest Tent Caterpillar
- 3 Newsletter Editor Wanted
- 2 Aquatic Invasive Species
- 1 Burning Reminder
- 1 Pig Roast Potluck

Inside this issue:



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.

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

Zebra mussels

According to the DNR, the zebra mussels are multiplying rapidly in infested lakes. It is important to separate zebra mussel fact from "wishful thinking". There are NO current methods of ridding a body of water of zebra mussels. We do not think Latoka has zebra mussels yet and it is important to all of us that it remains that way. The best way of knowing for sure will be this fall when you pull out your docks and boatlifts. A property owner on an area infested lake recently reported that after the water turned red, he realized that his grandkids had little cuts all over their feet, and had to buy beach shoes for anyone going into the water.

The DNR did not have enough applicants to fill all the boat inspections requested by lake associations. Some lakes have been teaching volunteers to work at boat accesses. If this works, perhaps Latoka could try it. I recently talked with a DNR boat inspector and he said that while the majority of people will readily comply with the rules, the 10-15% who resent it are nasty. A dock/lift removal company reported that every lift and dock that they pulled out from Le Homme Dieu had zebra mussels attached. You cannot transport anything with zebra mussels attached so there will be an added expense to those owners who store docks and lifts off their property. Zebra mussel removal is not easy

IT'S THE LAW - Beginning July 1, 2010, you cannot transport a boat on a Minnesota road without first draining it. So, pull the plug first! It does not mean you should pull the plug and let the water fly out as you are traveling down the road. Remember - you will only forget to replace the plug once - when the boat is threatening to sink.....

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

This is a hardy, pretty perennial, brought over by the first settlers for their gardens. It is not a good plant as it rapidly multiplies and can degrade wetlands by choking out native habitat. There is a bay near Osakis where the bullrushes have been completely choked out by purple loosestrife. Growing it off the lake is not the answer as one mature plant can produce millions of seeds, which are then spread by birds and winds. It is a plant that can grow up to six feet tall and has pink/purple flowers along the stalk. Please consider getting rid of it if you have it on your property. If you like that type of plant, try planting liatris.

Karen Cook DCLA rep

SHORE LAND REGULATIONS

Dave Rush, director of Land and Resources, asked all lake associations that publish a newsletter to remind you that Douglas County DOES have shore land regulations. There have been some shore land infractions this year that could have been avoided if the property owners had called his office first. It works better for everyone if you call before you start projects on your property. They might tell you "no", but they can also make you take it down or make reparations. They prefer to work with you and want to help you understand the rules and how to comply. The number to call is in the phone book under Douglas County - 762-3863.

Shore land alteration permits may be required for:

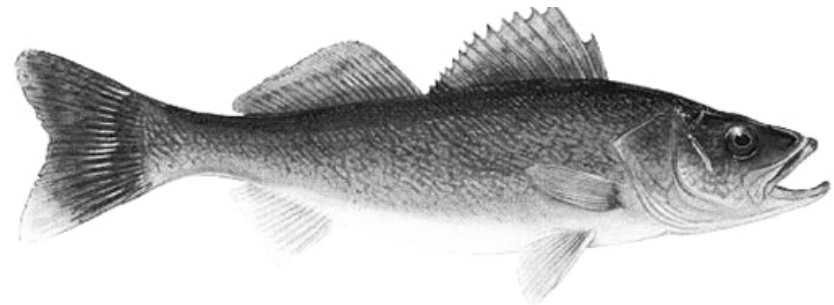
1. Construction of retaining walls
2. Repair or reconstruction of existing retaining walls
3. Movement or addition of fill or soil in the impact zone or on steep slopes
4. Ice ridge removal
5. Sand beach area construction, stairs, patios and decks
6. Removal of trees, shrubs or vegetation in the shore impact zones. The shore land impact zone on Latoka is 25' from the water inward.

There are some things for which you need a conditional use permit. When in doubt, check it out. After-the-fact permits range from \$500 up to \$900

Please remember that Land and Resources depends on you to report possible shore land infractions. They are not suggesting that you be the "policeman", but just because they give out a permit does not mean they have the staff or time to follow that project through its completion. If your neighbors think you are the ones who reported it, remember that many things are reported by people who drive by in cars or are boating by on the water.

Do you know where the ordinary high water level (OHWL) is on your lake or property? This determines if you should contact the county or the DNR. The OHWL is not where the level is now, but rather where the DNR has established the highest level to be. The county has jurisdiction from the OHWL landward and the DNR has jurisdiction from the OHWL into the water. Julie Aadland, DNR in Fergus Falls - 218-739-7576 can help you if you need this information

Karen Cook
DCLA rep



WALLEYE STOCKING UPDATE

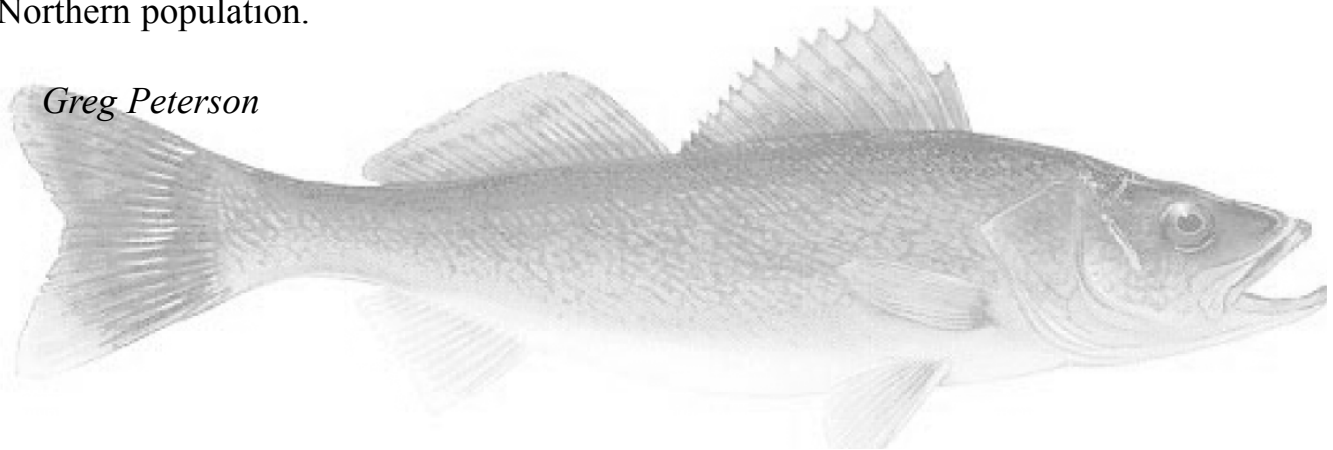
I'd like to take this time to thank all of those you contributed to the efforts of bringing the walleye fishery back to a respectable population level. I would also like to make a special thanks to the following: Tom and Martha Kohout, Randy and Julie Barnes, Wayne and Marilyn Helmbolt, Kai and Myrna Hunt, Joe and Dee Minnerath and Tom and Pam Van Beusekom. It takes the efforts of all of us to make this happen, but these six families have made generous contributions, and for that we should be grateful.

The Minnesota DNR has finally published the results of the lake survey they did last summer. The results aren't too surprising! The walleye gill net catch rate averaged 1.6 walleyes, compared to the long term average of 6.4. It makes me wonder what the catch rates would have been two years ago if they did the survey before we started doing the supplemental stocking? This is why the program was started. The landowners knew the catch rates were going down! Look at the trap net results, an average weight of 7 pounds! This suggests an aging population of fish that are eventually going to be gone. This is another reason why we should be stocking the lake. The bright side is more of the smaller fish have started to show up at the ends of some angler's lines. A testament to the fact the stocking efforts are starting to pay off.

As of this date, we don't have a stocking date nor has the permit process begun with the DNR. This usually occurs in September. Depending on the availability of the Walleye fingerlings and the blessing of the DNR we should see more fish going into the lake in either late fall or early winter. I'll give an update on the stocking when the next newsletter comes out.

Thanks once again for everyone's support and remember to keep putting a dent in the Northern population.

Greg Peterson



PLEASE SEND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

So far, we have about 100 of your email addresses. We usually send out 2 or 3 emails a month. To maintain your privacy, we send all emails using the Blind Carbon Copy so that your email address is not visible to anyone else. Most of the emails sent out are for lost and found items. Another important use is communicating about Forest Tent Caterpillar infestation in the spring and early summer. It was a very effective tool this past spring in letting us know about your caterpillars. We, in turn, sent out updates to you on caterpillar numbers and where we stood on spraying. Other emails are reminders for the annual meeting, boat parade and picnic. It is a great tool for getting information to you quickly. Please email Marge Hammerschmidt at mhammerLL1@msn.com or call her at 612-803-8278 to get your name added to the email communication list. You can also contact the lake association directly at lakelatoka@hotmail.com. Thank You.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR WANTED

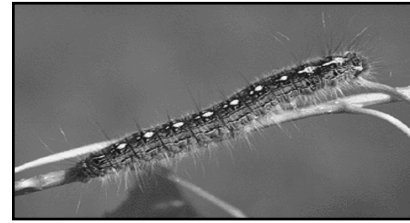
After many years of helping to deliver an informative and educational newsletter to the property owners of Lake Latoka, I have decided to step down and allow another volunteer with fresh ideas and enthusiasm jump in and continue the tradition. This individual would be someone willing and able to write and or edit a few articles for the lake association newsletter that comes out two or three times a year. Sometimes a little research may be required to insure accuracy. Most of the time it's just a matter of letting your friends and neighbors know about the WHAT, WHEN, WHERE and WHY of some activity or event going on with the lake. All you need to succeed is a computer with spell check and a telephone. Please contact any board member for more information.

Yours truly, Jim Scott

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



SUMMER 2010 FOREST TENT CATERPILLAR SPRAYING

Due to the early spring, the FTC season came earlier. Doug, from Benson Air Ag, contacted me a week before I started receiving calls and said the FTC's were on the move. I had to wait until property owners started calling in so I knew where to have him spray. Calls soon started coming in fast and furiously. We then got in line and waited our turn for spraying. We were delayed by the weather and at one point Benson Air Ag ran out of chemicals and had to fly some more in from Chicago. They finally were able to spray on May 26.

Overall, I felt the spraying was very successful this year. The same problem areas surfaced again, but the Forest Park area was hit harder than last year. Some areas on the west side, which rarely have a FTC problem even reported them. Areas sprayed: Selected properties on Iona Way, Vonder Heide Dr., Country Shores, The Narrows, Firemans Lodge Road and 12 properties north of the Lodge, W. Latoka Dr., Latoka Dr., Forest Park Rd., and a few 2nd tier members.

Some property owners were not sprayed as they did not report any FTC's or they failed to notify me or did so too late. I had 2 complaints of property owners who weren't sure if they had been sprayed and they were having many FTC's crawling around. After checking, I found that they indeed were marked for spraying, but their neighbors hadn't paid for spraying, which meant the neighbor's worms didn't realize their boundaries and came over. For future reference - if you can't convince your neighbors to pay for spraying, you may not want to either. There are a few property owners whose money will be kept in escrow, but will be refunded upon their request.

I checked a few other lake associations to see what procedures they followed and found this: Big Chip - volunteer went door-to-door collecting \$65. They sprayed only selected areas due to lack of more money. Lake Le Homme Dieu's board decided that FTC's are not a lake issue and should be handled by neighborhood property owners. Darling sprayed their entire shore land and billed the property owners \$40. Lake Carlos did not spray and the previous year they had to cover \$2700 from the people who wouldn't pay. Every lake seems to deal with FTC's differently. We hope to continue with our current plan. Next year's deadline for advanced payment is tentatively set for May 1. The cost has yet to be determined, but will remain the same if chemicals and gas prices don't rise.

A plea to some of you - the sprayer was not able to skip all the unpaid properties. If you know you were sprayed, the Board would appreciate a payment from you. A few of you requested last minute spraying and haven't paid either. Please send your payment to LLPOA, PO Box 102, Alexandria, MN 56308. Please make any suggestions for future spraying to me or any board member.

Linda Petty - FTC Coordinator

PLEASE HELP!

Please help us keep our lake ownership list up to date. We need this information for sending out the newsletters, compiling new Lake Latoka directories and for sending welcome representatives to the new lakeshore owners.

Please contact Sue Orpen at 320-762-1708 or sorpen@charter.net,

- 1) If you own a vacation home on Lake Latoka, but have changed your home mailing address.
- 2) If you have sold your property on Lake Latoka.
- 3) Or if you know of any property that has changed hands on the lake. Giving me this information, even if you don't know the new owners name, is very helpful.

Thanks! Sue Orpen

LAKESCAPING INFORMATION

- The book Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality by Carol Henderson and the CD ROM Restore Your Shore. These were donated to the Douglas County Public Library by the Lake Latoka Property Owner's Association and are there for your use.
 - Douglas County Soil and Water at the USDA Service Center, 900 Robert St SW (behind the north McDonalds) 763-3191
 - Internet. You can find lots of information by putting lakescaping or DNR lakescaping in your search engine.

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