



**Lake John Association
P.O. Box 437
Annandale, MN. 55302**

**Promoting the care and betterment
of Lake John**

www.lakejohnassociation.com

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Summer 2016

From the President's Dock

This spring, we had James from Freshwater Scientific do a Curly Leaf Pondweed survey to determine if we needed to treat the 27.6 acres as we have done the past 3 years. His findings were we needed to treat only 19.3 acres on the south end. Treatment was done on April 25th by Craig Mueller from Aquatic Solutions; Mike Jaskowiak and Steve Benzschawel assisted. Total cost for the survey and treatment was \$5,802.47. We received half of that back (\$2,901.23) from Wright County Soil & Water grant funds.

We are waiting to receive a DNR permit to treat Eurasian Water Milfoil in an area on the Southeast side, 10.4 acres and the west side, 1.9 acres. We also asked to either chemical treat or hand pull an area by Rocky Point and chemical treat down the middle of the NW bay/finger which is heavily infested with EWM. Hand pulling that area would be too cost prohibitive.

The Board has been working diligently with the DNR since January to find out the reason why our water level is so high the last several years (close to 6" above the Ordinary High Water Mark this spring).

We believe the high water level is the reason why huge bogs are breaking loose & landing on people's shorelines. Roger Stradel, the DNR hydrologist is supposed to tour the lake in the next few weeks to give us his opinion & hopefully this will lead to a solution.

A special thanks to Denny Kugler who organized a group of volunteers to relocate 2 huge bogs that migrated along the southeast end of the lake. We received a permit to relocate bogs and cable them in place when possible. Denny Kugler and Bruce Berning made 5 "claws" to help secure them. However, they were unable to use them this time. Volunteers helping in the relocation were: Denny Kugler, Bruce Berning, John O'Donnell, Mike Murphy, Robert Sutherland, Dave Kubisiak, Randy Mattson, Dick Leitzke, Bob & Joe Fleskes. (photos will be posted on our website).



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JOIN IN THE FUN AND CAMARADERIE



Our annual association meeting will be held on Saturday June 18th. 9:30 a.m. with coffee and donuts; meeting starts promptly at 10:00 a.m. at the Annandale Park Pavilion. Informative meeting, door prizes and lunch served of brats and hot dogs. See you there!!!

(From the President's Dock, continued from page 1)

A decontamination station is now up and running. Anyone boating in the Heart of the Lakes this season will have a prime opportunity to help stop the spread of aquatic invasive species by making use of a **free** power wash boat decontamination service made available at the Anchor Dock & Lift storage facility behind Classic Rides & Rides Hall. The decontamination unit was purchased for about \$18,200 by the Wright Soil & Water Conservation District & delivered to Annandale on Friday May 13, just before the fishing opener. It will remain available all season, seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. going forward. Qualified operators from Bishop AIS Services, a subsidiary of Anchor Dock and Lift, will operate the system.

There are several board positions we will need to vote on. Open positions on the Board are for President, Treasurer, Representatives for Section 2, 4 and 6. (Section reps can only be voted on by their respective section). The duties of the representative are simply to attend the board meetings on the second Monday at 6:00 p.m. in May, June, July and September & to vote on important issues that could affect their section.

The President presides over all meetings of the association; enforces order & the observance of the By-Laws and initiates any planned agenda for discussion.

The Treasurer collects all dues and assessments & receives all contributions to the association and pays all bills of the association, keeping accurate accounts & reports all financial transactions for the preceding period at each meeting of the association. If you would like your name on the ballot for any of these positions or think of someone who may, please email Elaine by June 8th (fleskese@gmail.com).

Kirk Linderholm, President

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Note: this was emailed to the members I have addresses for. I am repeating it here for those who do not share their email or do not have any. Elaine

I received an email from a member regarding bog damage to their dock, boat lift. The owner stated that their insurance wouldn't pay for the damage because their insurance did not cover a bog hitting any of their personal property. For personal property, it has to fit into certain categories (named perils) and a bog is not one of them (examples would be fire, wind, vandalism etc.) To be covered for this kind of damage, it must be listed under **optional inland marine coverage** so do not list under personal property. There is a 30 day waiting period to take effect. Any questions, contact your insurance agent.

MIDCONTINENT COMMUNICATIONS COMING TO LAKE JOHN

Midcontinent Communications, a new service provider for cable TV, internet and phone will be arriving to the east and north side of Lake John by the fall of 2016. You will be able to bundle all three services, or choose one or two of them. Internet speed will increase from 6 mbps (Windstream) to 60 mbps with Midcontinent. Cable TV will offer 200 channels. Phone service will offer eight calling features, voicemail with eVOICE, and unlimited local and domestic long-distance calling. If you are planning to switch providers and now have a Lakedale or Windstream email address, please send me your new email address so I can keep the roster up to date.

Thank you. My email address is: fleskese@gmail.com



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT ZEBRA MUSSELS



WHAT IS IT?

Zebra mussels are a type of mollusk, which also includes a wide variety of organisms such as squids, octopuses, snails, oysters, scallops, and clams.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

Mussels are also called ‘bivalves’. This means they have two shells or valves (a right valve and a left valve). The zebra mussel gets its name because of the dark, striped pattern on each valve. Usually the shell is a light color (tan, beige) with the zig-zag stripes. However, some are almost completely all brown and the stripes are not pronounced. Even more rare are those nearly all light colored with little striping.

HOW BIG DO THEY GET?

Generally, zebra mussels are small, averaging about an inch long. Two inches is approximately the maximum size. Their life span is four to five years.

HOW DID THEY GET HERE?

It is generally agreed upon by scientists that zebra mussels entered the Great Lakes from ballast water dumping by large ocean-going vessels from Europe. Ballast water is used to keep ships stable in the water. The amount of water carried is dependent on the amount of cargo on board. A ship will carry large amounts of ballast water when there is no cargo and will dump it in port as cargo is loaded.

WHY SHOULD WE CARE ABOUT THE ZEBRA MUSSEL?

Many invasive species share common characteristics that make them very adaptable to a new environment. The zebra mussel has the potential to inhabit most of the fresh waters of the U.S. and may impact a variety of native aquatic species and eventually entire ecosystems. They also have had a large economic impact already. Many power plants and water users have had to spend millions of dollars cleaning out zebra mussels from their facilities. In addition, more money has been spent on retrofitting facilities with devices to keep zebra mussels out and to monitor for them. These costs get passed along to the consumers.

WHAT DO THEY EAT?

They are primarily algae feeders. They feed by filtering the water through a siphon, up to a liter per day. This is why they like the insides of pipes so well, there is a constant supply of water and food flowing by them.

WHAT IMPACT ARE THEY HAVING ON THE ECOSYSTEM?

One of the most well documented impacts is on our native mussels. Zebra mussels are anchoring themselves by the thousands to native mussels making it impossible for the native mussel to function. Zebra mussels filter the water at an amazing rate, making the lake very clear. Most people assume that this increased visibility in the water must mean the water is “cleaner”. Not true. All they have done is filter out all the algae which normally would be food for native microscopic organisms.

WHAT'S UNUSUAL ABOUT THE SPECIES?

- Females can lay over one million eggs in a spawning season.
- They attach themselves to a usually hard surface and are difficult to remove. Once they are drawn into a pipe with water, they can grow and clog the pipe until the water stops flowing.
- They can withstand short periods (several days) out of water if conditions are moist and humid.
- Zebra mussel larvae (called veligers) are microscopic in size and are undetectable by the human eye. They can be unknowingly transported in boat live wells and bait buckets or anything that carries small amounts of water.

To date, there is still no chemical that will eradicate mature zebra mussels. They do not like galvanized metals, copper, zinc, brass or silicone coatings which **might** help to keep lake equipment clean and lake pumps from being clogged.



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Steve Benzschawel, Vice Pres.—612-558-0215
Elaine Fleskes, Treasurer—274-5399
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Mike Jaskowiak, Section 3—274-7423
Diane Asher, Section 4—274-5724
Alan Isaacson, Section 5—274-5035
Paul Fliegel, Section 6—274-2229

MISSION STATEMENT

- To assist in the conservation & preservation of the natural resources of Lake John.
- To promote the general welfare of the members as it pertains to their personal & property interests related to Lake John.
- To serve as an information resource for concerned citizens and an advocate for our members in appropriate matters.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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