

Lake Detroiters Association

ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, June 11, 2011

Holiday Inn



Editor, Dick Hecock

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

9AM – Rolls n' Coffee

10AM - Meeting

Call to Order

Introductions

Additions to and approval of Agenda

Secretary's Report

Treasurer's Report

Aquatic Plant Management

PRWD Update

Strategic Plan and Budget

Website status

Beach Captains update

Nominations and Election of New Board Members

Adjourn

Lake Detroiters Association

Board Members and Terms

Officers

President, Howard Hansen, 2010-2013

Vice President, Mike Metelak, 2010-2013

Secretary, Laurie Olson, 2010-2013

Treasurer, Rene'e Alsop, 2010-2013

Members

Barb Halbakken-Fischburg, 2009-2012

Julie Herman, 2009-2011

Carl Fingalson, 2008-2011

Dick Hecock, 2009-2011

Lyle Dahl, 2009-2011

Curt Jundt , 2010-2013

PRWD Representative – Ginny Imholte





Lake Detroiters Association, Inc.

June 11, 2011

Dear Friends of the Lake,

On your behalf, your association board focused on several initiatives and issues during the past year. The board used the LDA mission, *to promote the protection and enhance the quality of Detroit Lakes*, as a guide in its work.

Among the initiatives:

- Participated in organization and delivery of Legislative Summit.
- Heightened level of AIS awareness at local, regional and state levels.
- Tracked passage of Minnesota AIS Law.
- Promoted service provider training.
- Participating in grant driven boat access inspections program.
- Developed web site
- Continued organization of Beach Captain organizational effort
- Ongoing emphasis to increase membership
- Identified need to expand LDA Board Member resources.
- Joined the Detroit Lakes Chamber of Commerce
- Provided comment to DNR plan to increase south shore public access
- Provided comment to Becker County Parks and Recreation draft ordinance

This year your board initiated a strategic planning process designed to assure efficient resource focus on key initiatives which support the mission.

The strategic plan for the upcoming year focuses on tactics under one or more of the following objectives. Percentage numbers reflect a plan for this year's budget allocation.

- Lake Protection 60%
- Programs/Education 20%
- Membership 20%
- Operations/Financial

Tactics in support of these objectives, still under development, include emphasis on:

- Increasing LDA membership.
- Engaging membership in programs and initiatives.
- Improving communications with members.
- Enhancing lake protection programs.
- Strengthening collaboration with other organizations with similar mission
- Expanding influence and advocacy.

Increasing LDA membership remains a key to the success of supporting our mission. Current members are encouraged to invite others to join LDA.

Best wishes for a great summer!

Howard R. Hanson
President

Lake Detroit's Association 2010 Annual Meeting Minutes

The annual LDA meeting was held June 19, 2010 at The Lodge on the Lake. President Dick Alsop called the meeting to order at 10:00 A. M. with approximately 72 members in attendance.

The Board Members introduced themselves. Ginny Imholte moved that the Agenda be approved as written.

There were 2 corrections to the minutes of the last Annual Meeting. In the COLA report the word erotic species should read EXOTIC species and the following sentence should be "Flowering Rush was not on the list which only affects 8 lakes including Detroit Lakes.

Treasurer Rene'e Alsop gave the financial report showing a balance in the checking account of \$7,623.94 and a CD of \$4,855.31. The membership for the year totaled 151. The report was approved with a motion by Maureen Karsnia, seconded by Geri Rutledge, and passed.

In the absence of Senator Dan Skogen (due to a visit to the Wadena tornado site) Dick Hecock gave a report on Aquatic Invasive Species.

A symposium in St. Paul changed the focus on Flowering Rush to submergent treatment in concert with Concordia College, Mississippi State U.(studying ecology and phrenology) and the Corp of Engineers lab which has the ability to speed up seasonal cycles to determine what chemical at which concentration gives the best results. One problem is that the DNR and Fisheries must both agree on treatment and they have different points of view.

Bob Louiseau, City Administrator, reported from the city that only the swimming areas between the buoys may be chemically treated and in the areas outside the harvester must be used. This is not our choice but mandated by the DNR. The PRWD petitioned the city to obtain funding for the research program for the lakes. If approved by the Legislators the cost of this program would not be borne only by lakeshore owners but the city would be able to levy a 1% restaurant and bar tax which would be available for 4 items: AIS in lake, bike trails, development of crescent area, and improve the parking facilities for boat launching areas. Dick Alsop reported that the LDA Board sent a letter of support for this funding request. He also told the members that we continue to support the Overlook area on Hwy 10 and had contributed \$2000 to plantings. Ginny Imholte from the PRWD had brought a tray of AIS for members to see. She reported on the importance of the Rice Lake Project in the reduction of phosphorus coming into our lakes.

Dick Alsop reported that during the last year we gave \$200 for fireworks on July 4th, \$100 to Muskies Unlimited for beach cleanup, and \$500 to the Water Carnival. Dick H. moved that we continue these contributions, seconded by Laurie and passed.

Laurie Olson identified the need for Beach Captains to deliver information, obtain signatures, etc. as a way to keep membership informed. There will be meetings scheduled on how the program will work and packets of information to disperse. She asked for volunteers from each section of the beach as well as a volunteer to develop a web site for the Lake Detroit's Association Dick A. presented the candidates for new Board members: Mike Metelak, Howard Hansen, and Curt Jundt. Laurie moved that they be accepted, seconded by Julie and passed.

A petition was available to be signed requesting that hand harvesting of Flowering Rush be permissible to all lakeshore owners. Copies of the petition were given to Beach Captains with the stipulation that they be turned in to PRWD by July 1st.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Olson
Secretary

LAKE DETROITERS ASSOCIATION

Annual Financial Report

June 1, 2010 - May 31, 2011

			2010-11 Budget
Balance in Bremer Checking: May 31, 2010		\$ 7,623.94	
Income		YTD	
			180 Members
LDA Membership Dues	\$ 3,620.00		\$ 3,330.00
118M@25.00			
67M@10.00			
Interest Earned - Checking Account	\$ 3.79		\$ 5.00
Donation by LDA Members	\$ 25.00		\$ 50.00
YTD Income	\$ 3,648.79		\$ 3,385.00
Less Expenses			
Midwest Printing - Newsletter, Postcards & Postage	\$ 477.22		\$ 1,300.00
Lodge on the Lake - 2010 Annual Meeting	\$ 503.31		\$ 550.00
Postmaster - P.O. Box Fee	\$ 60.00		\$ 65.00
Becker County COLA - LDA Dues	\$ 549.00		\$ 540.00
COLA - Water Testing			\$ 160.00
Lodge on Lake - Beach Captains	\$ 328.88		\$ 200.00
MN Water Association - Membership Fee	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00
DL Chamber of Commerce - Membership Fee	\$ 212.00		
J. Richard Alsop - Newspaper Ad & 3 Pitchforks	\$ 158.01		
Dogfish Media/Brian Geihl - Website Design	\$ 1,720.00		
Bremer Bank - Deluxe Checks	\$ 11.25		
Program Expenses			
Beach Captains - Laurie Olson - Nametags/Trophy	\$ 299.25		
Education			
Less Donations			
Muskles, Inc. - Donation	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00
Detroit Lakes Chamber - 2010 Fireworks	\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00
DL Water Carnival - Donation	\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00
Pelican River Watershed District - Restore Overlook			
Becker County Dive & Rescue			\$ 200.00
YTD Expenses & Donations		\$ 5,168.92	\$ 3,865.00
Balance in Bremer Checking: May 31, 2011		\$ 6,103.81	
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT: May 31, 2010		\$ 3,855.31	
Annual Interest Paid to CD	\$ 102.17		\$ 41.00
Bremer Certificate of May 31, 2011		\$ 3,957.48	
Grand Total of Checking and Certificate of Deposit		\$ 10,061.29	

Welcome Back Snowbirds

Here is what you may have missed.

2010 was one of the wettest years on record, a full 60% more precipitation than the long-term average. We also enjoyed a long ice-free season, almost three weeks longer than the average.

The winter of 2010/2011 was a few degrees colder than average (especially compared to recent years), but continued a pattern of significantly higher nighttime low temperatures. With only one night of minus 30 temperatures, and no days when the temperature failed to reach minus 10, it was not a notably severe winter.

With over 71 inches, it was snowy, the snowiest winter since record-breaking 1996/97 (but not by much, since 2008/09 had 68 inches and 2007/08 marked 66 inches).

April 26 was the official 2011 Ice-free date for Detroit Lake. That was six days later than the long-term average, but almost 12 days later than the average of the last 10 years. It isn't unusual to have late ice-off dates - in 2008 Detroit still had ice until May 1st.

This year's ice-on period was about 15 days longer than the average of the last 10 years.

So far this year (late May) total moisture is running about 45 percent over the average, continuing the last year's pattern.

Stick around and enjoy our lakes.

Noteworthy Websites:

- www.beckercola.org, the website of Becker County COLA
- City of Detroit Lakes: www.ci.detroit-lakes.mn.us.
- Becker County www.co.becker.mn.us; for airphoto and tax parcel maps: <http://gis-server.co.becker.mn.us>
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/index.html>
- Pelican River Watershed District: www.Prwd.org.

Make this site a "favorite" for info on...

Flowering Rush spraying schedule

Ice damage info and permits

Water quality data

Road side pickup schedule

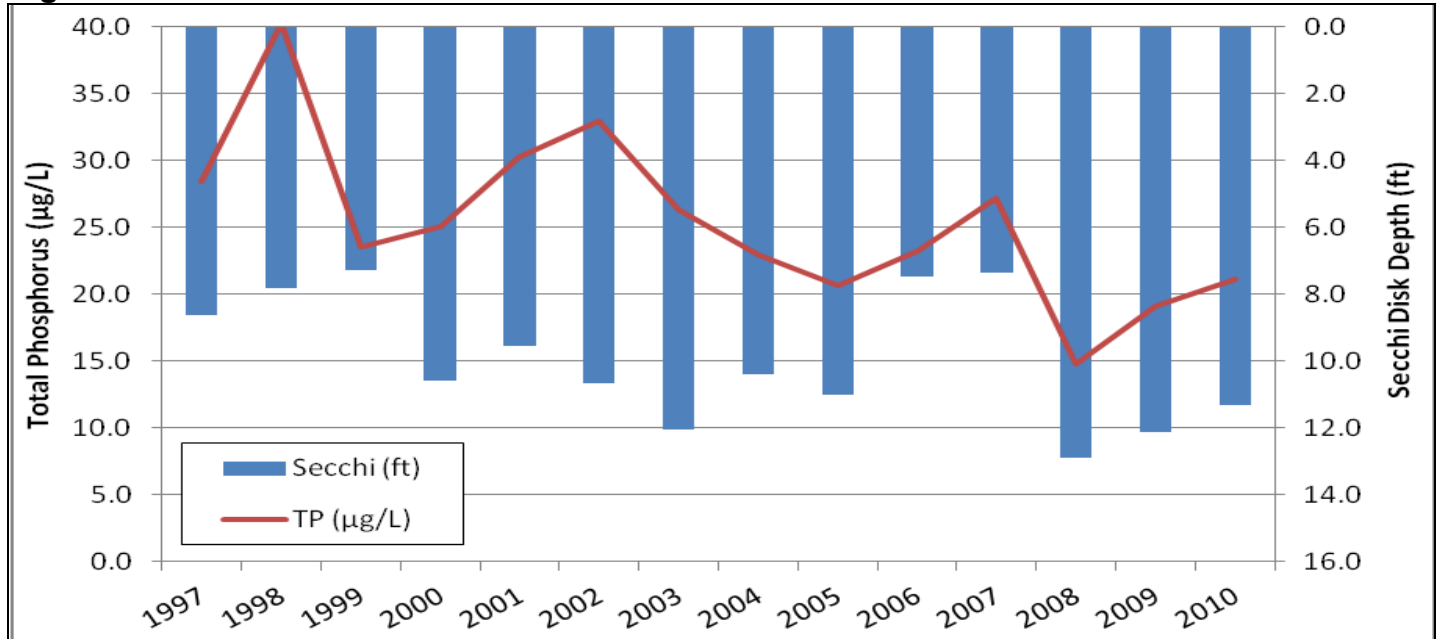
Rain garden fact sheet

Use the District's aerial map to zoom in on your neighborhood.

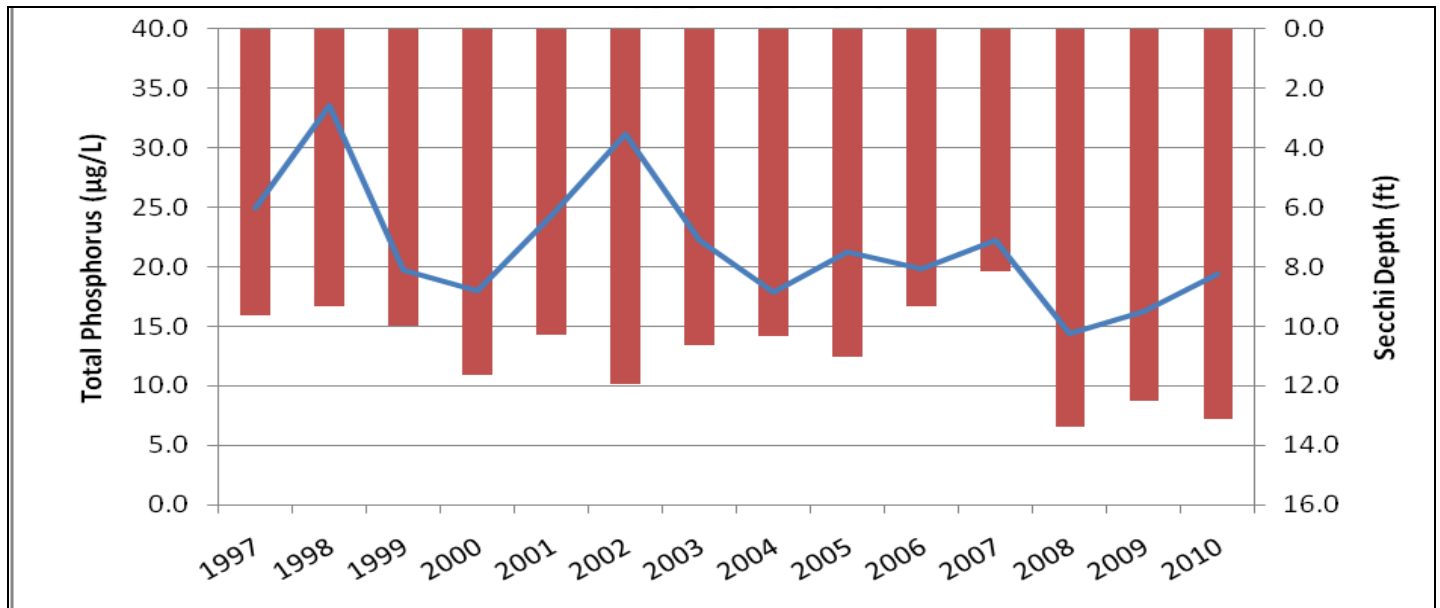
Water Quality Review

Like all lakes, Big and Little Detroit Lakes and Curfman (Deadshot) exhibit variable conditions from year to year. Two important water quality indicators, Total phosphorus and Secchi clarity measurements for these lakes are displayed below. (The deeper we can see into the lake and the less the phosphorus, the better the water quality.) Over the last fourteen depicted years, Big and Little Detroit both appear to have shown slight improvements in water quality conditions

Big Detroit



Little Detroit



For Curfman there are insufficient years of data to establish trends. The averages for four recent years indicates that TP fluctuates between 19 and 28 (parts per billion) and secchi between 7 and 13 feet. This pattern is similar to Big Detroit.

Rice Lake Project Update

In 1913 a ditch was constructed along the course of the Pelican River from Little Floyd Lake to Big Detroit. A major component of this largely failed project was the partial drainage of Rice Lake. The remnant, located about 2.5 miles north of Big Detroit is a 900 acre wetland complex.

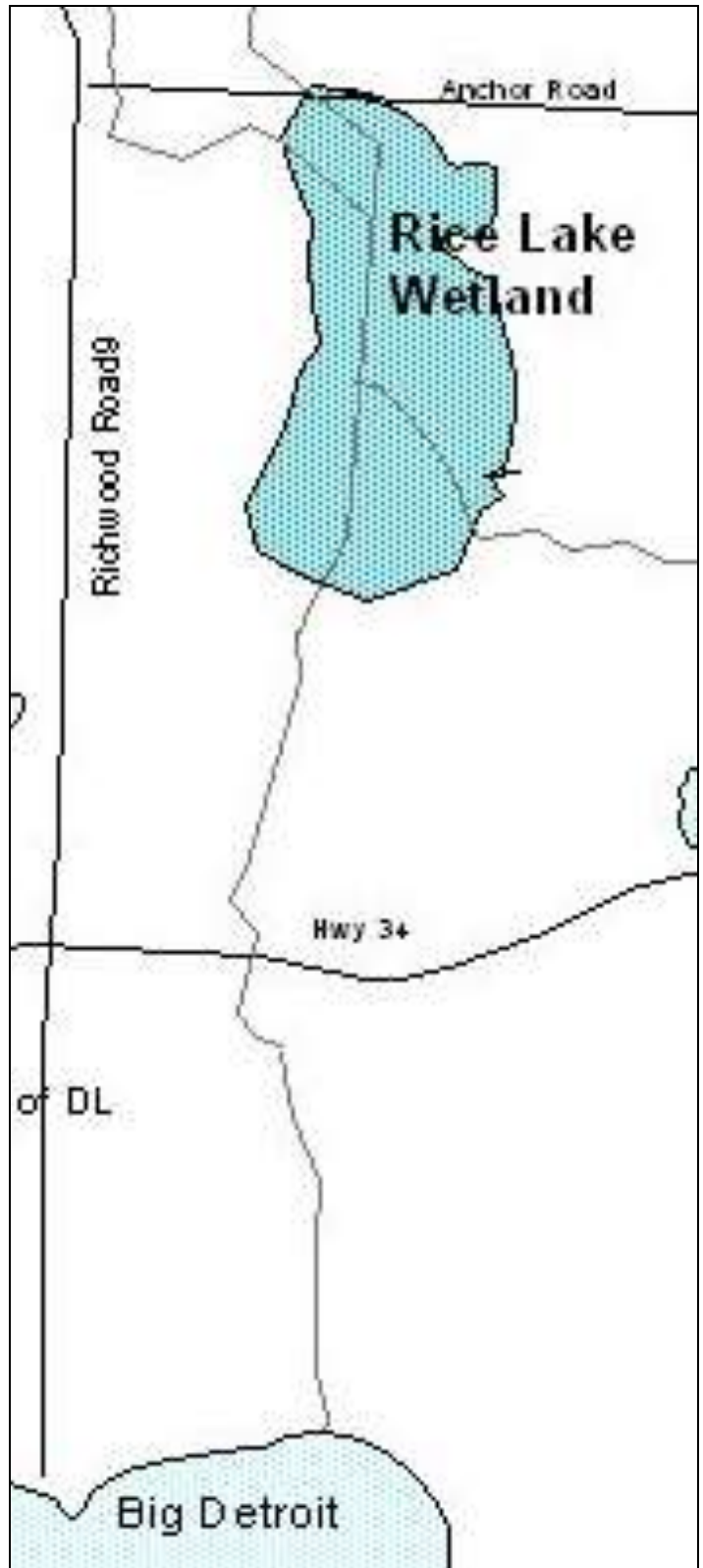
As early as the 1970's the PRWD was aware of elevated nutrient levels being discharged from the Rice-Lake wetland. Such nutrient problems are known to be associated with ditched wetlands in other parts of the state, and have to do with complicated chemical interactions between the water, oxygen and sediments, as well as the flushing effects promoted by the ditching.

After detailed studies of area, and options for control, the PRWD decided to proceed with some measures that will partially restore Rice Lake and adjacent wetlands. Water in that basin will be elevated by about two feet in order to retard flows through the wetland system, and spread water more broadly into the adjacent wetlands. It is planned that this approach will reduce downstream discharges of ortho-phosphorus, by about 50%. Ortho-phosphorus (dissolved phosphorus) is an important culprit in causing deteriorated water quality.

The project will entail construction of two low dams. Currently District officials are nearing the end of acquisition of flood easements from property owners in the Rice Lake area. Engineering designs for the structures and road improvements started in 2010. It is expected that the construction will be completed by next spring.

The project will cost approximately 3 million dollars, the vast majority of which will be provided by various Federal agencies.

In addition to water quality benefits, the wetland enhancements will provide brooding and nesting habitat for several species of migratory waterfowl



Protecting our Lakes from Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).

Lake Detroiters are well-acquainted with AIS from their experience with Flowering Rush. The introduction of that plant in the 1970's has caused a good deal of inconvenience and expense, some would say a deterioration of the recreational experiences associated with our lakes.

With the discovery of Zebra Mussels on Pelican Lake, only a few miles from us, we now are faced by a much greater problem. Heavy infestations of ZM can **ruin** a lake. ZM feed by filtering nutrients, plants and other small organisms from the water, thereby depriving food for fish populations. Moreover, as the mussels die, their shells tend to accumulate in shallow waters and along beaches where, through ice and wave action, they are broken up into very sharp pieces. ZM's also attach themselves to hard surfaces (docks, boats) and can clog and damage irrigation and engine cooling equipment.

We must be on guard to prevent this environmental disaster. Here are some tips for Lake Detroiters.

Stop the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Clean Your Boat Inside and Out!

Compliance with Aquatic Invasive Species inspection requirements is an express condition of transporting or operating water-related equipment.

- ✓ All types of watercraft are potential carriers of zebra mussels and other AIS. Know which lakes are infested!
- ✓ Water-related equipment can be thoroughly inspected - inside and out - for AIS anywhere in the state by law enforcement or certified inspectors. Removal of AIS, decontamination and/or treatment orders may result.
- ✓ Refusing to comply with inspection or decontamination can result in being prohibited from launching.
- ✓ Remove drain plug before leaving access and leave out until arriving at next access point. Reinstall before launching!
- ✓ Did you know baby zebra mussels are invisible? Before leaving an access, drain all water from:
 - ✓ Live Wells
 - ✓ Bilge
 - ✓ Motors
 - ✓ Bait Buckets
- ✓ Run motor for a few seconds to discharge water before departing lake access.
- ✓ Dispose of bait in the trash - not the lake - before leaving any lake access. To save bait, bring extra fresh water.
- ✓ If you take a boat to infested waters, it must be decontaminated before entering another lake. **Over ▶**

It's the law!

"One Boat -- One Lake"

Becker County Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA)
PO Box 1553, Detroit Lakes, MN 56502

Questions? beckercola@gmail.com

Information Current as of 05/28/11

Stop the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Clean Your Boat Inside and Out!

Know the Law! It's Illegal to:

- ✓ Transport watercraft without removing the drain plug.
- ✓ Arrive at lake access with drain plug in place.
- ✓ Transport aquatic plants, zebra mussels or other prohibited species on all roadways.
- ✓ Launch a watercraft with prohibited species attached.
- ✓ Take any water away from Minnesota waters.
- ✓ Release live bait into the water.

Smart Moves:

- ✓ Thoroughly inspect watercraft and trailers for invasives before leaving the lake.
- ✓ Bring additional clean tap water to replace water in bait bucket when leaving a lake.
- ✓ Transport fish on ice - be prepared, bring a cooler.
- ✓ Decontaminate your boat, including live wells, with hot water (>140°) and pressure washing before moving to other waters.
- ✓ If no other option, dry watercraft and equipment for at least 7 days before relaunching, depending on humidity and temperature.
- ✓ Report new sightings of aquatic invasives to the DNR.
- ✓ Report violations to TIPS 1-800-652-9093. **Over ▶**

To Know More:

www.dnr.state.mn.us

www.100thmeridian.org

Questions? beckercola@gmail.com

Summary of Minnesota 2011 Aquatic Invasive Species Law

- **Watercraft and water-related equipment can be thoroughly inspected (visually and tactilely) for Aquatic Invasive Species anywhere in the state by a conservation officer, licensed peace officer (Sheriff Deputies and Police) or a certified inspector.**
- **Inspection includes full examination of watercraft and may result in the requirement of removal, drainage, decontamination or treatment to prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species.**
- **Law enforcement officers, Conservation Officers and certified inspectors can prohibit individuals from launching watercraft if the operator refuses to allow an inspection or refuses to remove/dispose of any Aquatic Invasive Species. (Refusal to allow inspection or follow a removal order may result in civil citation and or a one-year suspension of watercraft license.)**
- **Water related equipment (includes portable bait containers) leaving public waters must be drained and all vegetation removed along with drain plug out for transport. In addition, watercraft must arrive at access with drain plug out, all water drained and no vegetation; failure to do so means that operator is in violation.**
- **All bait containers must be drained before leaving access. Suggestion: bring water and a cooler to transfer bait.**
- **Mobile inspection stations may be utilized for certified and thorough watercraft inspections to ensure Aquatic Invasive Species compliance.**
- **A watercraft owner must obtain and display a DNR aquatic invasive species rules decal on a watercraft. After August 1, 2014, failure to display would become a petty misdemeanor violation.**
- **Lake Service Provider permits are required which include training, examination and permit fee. Persons working for a permittee must also complete training.**
- **Water related equipment (dock/lift) that is removed from infested waters may be stored on riparian (owner's) property for the winter (or repair) to be returned only to the same water from which it was removed.**

Compliance with aquatic invasive species inspection requirements is an express condition of operating or transporting water related equipment in Minnesota.



Lake Detroiters to Participate in Volunteer Inspection Program

PRWD has received funds from the Minnesota DNR to assist lakes in establishing teams of volunteers to intercept boaters at lake accesses on nearby lakes, including Big and Little Detroit. These volunteers receive training in inspecting boats to try to prevent the spread of AIS to our lakes. Some will be paid, some will not. They also will collect some data on boater origins and keep track of other lakes visited by boats. Please greet these volunteers and thank them for their efforts. Cooperate with them in their inspections, and learn from them what you can do on your own to reduce the risk of introducing new problems to our lakes

Public Access Expansion and Improvement

Minnesota DNR has announced that it will acquire adjacent land to the existing public access on the South Shore of Big Detroit Lake. The goal is to increase parking areas, improve traffic flow, and to allow for the addition of some facilities, including an AIS treatment area.

Lake Detroiters participated in providing written input on the general idea, and has been assured that local interests will be considered as the detailed plans take shape.

Lake Detroiters Association Welcomes Fisherman and Recreational Boaters!

Be considerate and share the lake with recreational boaters and fisherman. *Make an effort to avoid fisherman or skiers that are already in the area of the lake you are on!*

Note: From time to time water skiers and wake boarders have courses set up on the lake. It is legal for temporary docks and buoys to be set up between sunrise and sunset without permits. Minnesota's DNR boating and safety guide has more details.

BE SURE TO OBSERVE SLOW-NO WAKE SIGNS AND STEER CLEAR OF MARKED SWIMMING AREAS

Boating Checklist:

(check to make sure you are in compliance – DNR does!)

- Current license placed correctly on boat/pontoon
- Boat lights - must be used between sunset and sunrise
- horns that work (boats over 16 feet)
- Throw cushion required in each boat
- Life jackets for each passenger in the boat (recent regulatory change allows use of inflatable life-jackets in some instances) – life jackets must be “accessible” (not in closed bags or in storage lockers)
- Fire extinguisher , horn – required on boats longer than 16 feet
- Licensed boat trailer, with lights that work.

See the DNR Boating Rules for full details (they are on the DNR website).

Caution

Boaters should avoid driving through stands of Flowering Rush whether they are emergent (above the water) or below the surface. It appears that boat engines uproot the plants, allowing them to float to away to establish a new colony.

Adoption of PRWD Aquatic Plant Management Plan

In April, 2010 PRWD adopted a 5-year Aquatic Plant Management Plan which featured PRWD Aquatic Plant Management Plan for the Lower Lake system (DL to Mill Pond). The plan preparation process included several stakeholders meetings, and solicitation of opinions and recommendations through the media.

The following are the plan's District Wide Aquatic Plant Goals and Proposed Management Measures.

- Continue assessments of aquatic plants communities;
- Protect, enhance natural aquatic plant communities shoreland zones.
- Obtain FR Research
- Increase incentives for Riparian owners to control Flowering Rush.
- Scrutinize automated plant control devices (weed roller) use in waters infested with Flowering Rush
- Educate lake residents and others about aquatic plants, aquatic plant management options, and prevention and treatment of exotic infestations, both existing and potential
- Develop alternate management structures (revise PRWD projects to include Muskrat and Mill Pond, change in PRWD funding mechanisms, new roles for City and townships, etc)
- Continue to press for Rules changes that will reduce the hardship of obtaining signature cards from riparian owners who own shoreline near invasive species, and to reduce the permitting costs for controlling invasive species.
- Improve coordination and communication among various units of government who have interests in, or responsibility for, Aquatic Plant Management in area lakes.

In addition, specific goals and implementation recommendations were included for seven lakes. For Detroit (Big and Little) and Curfman, the following were described:

1. identify "operational test sites" for *in situ* experimentation with treatments for submerged FR sites; arrange for evaluation by professional.
2. Identify and treat major isolated areas of homogeneous offshore Curlyleaf Pondweed infestations as resources permit
3. Undertake "lake-wide" treatments of submerged and emerged FR as treatment and research outcomes dictate.
4. Seek to alter Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Rules to enhance riparian owners' ability to manage current, and curtail new, FR infestations through hand-removal.
5. Develop additional criteria to be used by riparian owners to manage infestations of natives and exotics to facilitate reasonable shoreline use and boat access
6. Partner with City of Detroit Lakes to manage public beach swimming and boat-launch areas through existing chemical means in order to offset social/recreational and economic impacts
7. Protect native plant communities, especially emergent plants, such as Bulrush
8. Modify District Project 1C as needed, to reflect changes implicit in this plan.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A DISTRICT-WIDE LAKE MANAGEMENT PROJECT Project Number LMP-01

Flowering Rush and other aquatic plant nuisance treatment activities have previously been paid for by assessments on shoreline properties.

In recognition of the severe and broadening impacts of AIS problems in the District, and anticipating worsening of these problems, as part of its 2010 Aquatic Plant Management Planning, PRWD considered both treatment alternatives and administrative arrangements, including financing. The recommended solution for providing education, conducting research, and undertaking treatment of AIS infestations, is the creation of a district-wide project in accordance with Minnesota Statutes and under the auspices of the Basic Water Management Project as described in the District's 2005 Revised Management Plan. An engineer's report was undertaken and recommended the implementation of the project. Public Hearings were held in July, and later that month the PRWD Managers established the 15 year project which will be financed by an ad-valorem tax on the properties throughout the District.

Detroit Lakes “Weed Harvest” Project

Having been perceived as a problem on Detroit Lakes for many decades, various forms of weed treatments have been tried. Aquatic plant removal on Big Detroit Lake was a part of the ice-harvest operations which ended in the late 1960's. In the early 1950's Lake Detroiters Association paid for mechanical harvesting of lake weeds. In the mid-1950's, the association began to use chemicals (sodium arsenite and copper sulfate) to control rooted plants and algae.

In 2006, a major operational shift occurred in the programs with the District directing more efforts and funding towards chemical control and less on mechanical harvesting. The District has been supervised by the MN DNR.

- ◆ ***The focus of activities has shifted from general harvesting and removal of submerged aquatic plants to harvesting and removal of exotic species.***
- ◆ ***The treatment of Flowering Rush has shifted from mechanical to chemical control.***
- ◆ ***The DNR has gradually curtailed District mechanical harvesting activities and encouraged chemical controls.***

Between 1987 and 1989, PRWD contracted with lake shore owners on Deadshot Bay and Little Detroit for some mechanical harvesting operations, mainly aimed at Flowering Rush control. Following a petition by Detroit Lake residents in 1990, the Pelican River watershed District began mechanical harvesting and roadside pickup on Big and Little Detroit. The Project grew out of concerns about the rapid spread of Flowering Rush.

The Minnesota DNR is responsible for protecting aquatic plants in lakes which are critical to the health of lake ecosystems. Over the years, the DNR has increased its scrutiny, and limitations placed upon harvesting activities by PRWD. Coincidentally it was determined that mechanical harvesting, previously the DNR recommended method of Flowering Rush control, is not effective (and may even contribute to its spread). After 2003 the District's use of mechanical harvesting equipment has been severely curtailed, but the DNR authorized the use of herbicides to control the exotic species, Flowering Rush.

In 2003, the District began experimenting with various herbicides to control Flowering Rush. In 2004, one herbicide, Habitat, was selected for further testing in 2005, and for full-scale applications in 2006, 2007 and 2008. One of the important attributes of this particular chemical is that it does not affect native submerged plants. The District's expectation is for only partial control in any given season, because submerged (young) Flowering Rush plants are unaffected by the herbicide treatment. Variable water levels, winds, waves, boating activities and other factors diminish the effectiveness of control too. Under the best of circumstances, several years of treatment will greatly reduce population of flowering rush, but total elimination is not anticipated, not least because the plant is often found mixed with desirable and protected species.

The DNR has become much more involved in Flowering Rush management efforts. Previously the agency mainly contributed funds for research on the plant and its management. More recently the agency has mapped the spread of the plant, and now has taken direct control over the determination of treatment locations, including the selection of test sites for research. In 2009 DNR has mandated that permission slips be signed (see related article), and have delayed issuance of a treatment permit until current flowering rush infestation mapping is complete in July.

Since 2009 PRWD mechanical harvesting activities have been limited to removal of curly-leafed pondweed on Detroit in late spring and early summer.

Aside from its chemical testing program, in 2011 PRWD treatment of Flowering Rush along shorelines will be restricted to those areas (1) in which the District has secured written permission of shoreline landowners within 150 of the treated area and (2) where plants have more than 50% of their surface area above the water.

2011 Flowering Rush Research and Control Efforts

To obtain better information on effective management methods for Flowering Rush, in 2010 the District contracted with Dr. John Madsen, Geosystems Research Institute/Mississippi State University and Dr. Michelle Marko, Concordia College, to study the plant life/growth cycle, ecology, and plant biomass in relation to water depth. This information will be used to assist the Army Corps of Engineers chemical application research to target optimum treatment timings to increase FR management effectiveness.

Hundreds of plant samples and sediment cores are collected throughout the year and analyzed. In addition field testing will be conducted on several herbicides. In 2011 this will involve three test plots, two along the west shore of Big Detroit (Shorewood Drive, also known as "the Flats"), and one near the overlook.

In the meantime, an Army Corps of Engineers is conducting "tank tests" on the efficacy of various herbicides at various doses during different stages of the Flowering Rush's growth cycle. These tests are conducted at a Wisconsin facility which allows precise control of environmental variables, and compresses the sequence of the seasons.

It is anticipated that results from these research efforts will be available next spring (2012).

Other Flowering Rush control activities in 2011. The City of Detroit Lakes will continue aggressive treatment of the public beach areas. Public beach areas are given more leeway with respect to treatment of nuisance aquatic plants. Therefore the City of Detroit Lakes has applied for a DNR permit that will once again allow chemical treatment for submerged plant species and for the treatment of the snails which carry swimmer's itch. This year the permit allows for treatment of the whole length of the beach, including boat launch and storage areas. There may also be multiple treatments. The control of submerged plants with ***broad-spectrum herbicides*** is planned for early in the season (in early June).

In 2011 PRWD also will resume application of the emergent herbicide Imazapyr to certain Flowering Rush infestations. In particular, efforts will be focused on shallow areas, where a high percentage of the total plant mass is above the water's surface. More than one treatment may be attempted if conditions warrant.

Private property owners also MAY engage in aquatic plant control

Riparian property owners are allowed to hand-remove submerged aquatic plants in an area up to 2500 square feet to enhance swimming or boating. The dimensions of the cleared area along the shore may not exceed 50 feet, or half the width of the property's frontage, whichever is less.

The use of chemicals or mechanized methods (weed rollers) or the removal of emergent plants, including Flowering rush, requires a permit from the DNR. While the criteria for granting such a permit are complicated and extensive, most are issued only when plants interfere with an applicant's ability to use watercraft, swim or engage in other traditional recreational uses. Permits for control of swimmer's itch and transport of cattail bogs also must be obtained. Permit application forms can be obtained on-line at the DNR's website, or at the Lake Sallie Area DNR office.

Roadside pickup is available from June 1 through September 30, 2011

PRWD's collection of gathered up aquatic plant debris will continue as in previous years, BUT there is still the continuing problem of residents placing the piles on the roadway or bike path causing unsightly traffic hazards for other roadway users. Be considerate of non-lake residents.

Create a pile on your own property, not on someone else's. The waste material pile should be accessible to loading equipment, away from plantings and poles. The lawn will be damaged, so plan accordingly. Consider sharing a common collection area with a neighbor.

Please talk to your new neighbors. The Pelican River Watershed District only picks up aquatic plant material from beaches. Garden wastes, branches, etc. are not picked up by the Watershed or by the City of DL. It is the responsibility of each homeowner to haul these items to the appropriate site north of DL (North of Detroit Lakes – drive one mile north on Hwy 59, watch for yard waste sign, turn East on Stoney Road).

Aquatic Plants, Native plants, Shoreline Plantings

We live on a natural body of water, complete with a life cycle of its own. Aquatic plants and algae growth follow a weather related relationship with the available nutrients. We can all learn so much through observing the natural growth patterns of the lakes plants and organisms.

Native plants provide food and shelter for numerous lake creatures, fish and birds. These plants protect the shoreline from erosion and stabilize the bottom sediments, as well as controlling the runoff from our lawns. The lake also creates ice ridges to control this run in from lawns. Replacement if lawn with plantings along the shoreline will catch more rain water, phosphorous and nitrogen.

The plentiful weed growth in our lake is a result of nutrient build-up in the lake bottom sediments. When weather conditions are right, an algae bloom occurs. The native emergent plants: reeds, cattails and bulrush help utilize these nutrients. Detroit Lake has lost much of its native emergent vegetation, but several residents have worked hard, with DNR assistance, to restore such plantings.

SOME OF BECKER COUNTY COLA's 2010/11 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- developed *Positions and Policies* statement to provide clarity about COLA (see website)
- played a leadership role in current deliberations of County ordinance revisions, especially in the regulations governing shore impact zones, mitigation, resorts.
- joined with other COLA's in a *Coalition* to advocate for timely passage of new statewide shoreland and dock standards, stricter AIS regulations, and to oppose attempts to weaken criteria for granting variances. The *COLA Coalition* currently represents 16 COLA's (30,000 riparian properties)
- helped develop, and distributed popular *Shoreland Property Owners Guide*
- held monitoring workshop for lake associations, promoted lake-specific diagnoses and monitoring programs and obtained a grant to prepare *lake-specific monitoring plans* for 20 COLA lakes, called the *Next Step Project*. COLA Pays 2/3rds of *monitoring costs* for COLA lakes not included in the Next Step.
- joined with League of Women Voters in holding a "*candidates forum*" for allow public to ask questions of County Commissioner candidates
- Organized the *Becker County 2011 Legislative Summit on AIS* with purpose of influencing legislators; 300 attended, including 20 legislators. This effort was a significant help in getting stricter AIS law passed. COLA also helped organize *AIS local training sessions for Lake Service Providers*, sponsored and organized *AIS volunteer training sessions* for AIS inspection programs. COLA has worked hard to consolidate these efforts by helping the County with design of *AIS brochure* which was distributed with tax bills, another boater check list distributed to bait dealers and marinas, and distributed press release timed to precede fishing opener – resulted in several articles and TV and Radio programs about the relationship of AIS and anglers
- A DNR grant will be used to prepare and distribute *Zebra Mussel Alert* brochure containing information on new regulations to bait dealers, resorts, and marinas.

For more information, please visit COLA's website: www.beckercola.org.



Join Lake Detroiters Today! Dues are \$25 per year! See enclosed envelope

Why Join Lake Detroiters?

You are invited to join Lake Detroiters Association. If you haven't already joined us, please read on to see why it is important to do so, and why the organization is worthy of your support and membership.

- You protect your property values by protecting your lake
- You have a voice in your concerns regarding the lake
- Your voice will be heard at the City Planning Commission, the Pelican River Watershed District, Becker County, and the Becker County Coalition of Lakes Association.
- You have available to you a variety of free information such as shoreline landscaping, erosion control, water quality, and more

Established in 1943, Lake Detroiters' Association is one of the oldest organized lake groups in the area. It is dedicated solely to maintaining the quality of life in and on the waters of Big and Little Detroit Lakes, and Curfman.

If you are fortunate enough to live on the lake, you have inherited a responsibility to maintain and oversee these beautiful waters and shoreline. As more vacationers and boats use the lakes each year, and as more intensive development takes place in and around the lakes, the impact on water quality is evident. There are more weeds, more shoreline erosion, more sediments into the lake, and a host of other issues concerning the lake.

Lake Detroiters' concerns itself with these issues and addresses them. It works closely with the Pelican River Watershed District, the City, the MN DNR, and the Coalition of Lake Associations. The organization is here to represent the land owners of the lake shores – without your membership and input, representatives' voices cannot be heard.

Lake Detroiters' Board meets once a month, usually on the 2nd Thursday at 9AM in the Wells Fargo Board Room (2nd Floor) in Detroit Lakes. These meetings are open to the public (contact a board member for details).

A lake directory was published in 2006 and copies are still available. It contains property owners' information as well as historical articles, guidelines for shoreline landscaping, building/remodeling rules, and much else.

Each year a spring newsletter is delivered to each of the 600 lakeshore property owners. Help us to maintain a strong organization to help and know our lakes.

Lake Detroiters' Association membership is open to every lakeshore property owner on Big and Little Detroit Lake, Deadshot Bay (Curfman) and others with property within 1000 feet of these waterbodies.

