

# MULE LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Spring 2012

Website address: [MuleLake.org](http://MuleLake.org)

## President's Corner

By Marj Dahlager

Welcome Mule Lakers to the 2012 summer season. As I write this I am looking out at our beautiful lake. It is calm and sunny. Perfect!

Your board of directors met on May 15 to start making decisions and plans for the 2012 season.

**Mark your calendars for the annual meeting which will be held at The Corral on July 28 at 9:00 a.m.** Coffee, donuts and fruit will be served followed by a business meeting. There will be door prizes. We warmly invite and encourage all residents to attend.

We will continue celebrating July 4 with a boat parade. It will start at 2 P.M. at the site of the old access. We need both participants and on lookers so decorate your boats and join the fun or wave from the shore.

There is much concern about Aquatic Invasive Species and how to prevent the spread into Mule Lake. There have been many residents trained to inspect boats at the public access. As yet, we have not found a satisfactory way to encourage people to sign up for monitoring the access. You will be hearing from Tom Buss on this subject and we encourage your participation.

Each year we need willing lakeshore residents to agree to serve on the Mule Lake Board of directors. Please consider serving if asked. The commitment includes about 4-5 meetings during the summer.

We are trying to send some notifications via e mail. Please send updates or join the e mail list. You may send your emails to Marjorie Dahlager at [rmmrdahl@earthlink.net](mailto:rmmrdahl@earthlink.net).

Several years ago we provided information on how to get your well water tested for safety. If you are interested in having your water tested go to [www.co.cass.mn.us](http://www.co.cass.mn.us) and click on Environmental Services, scroll down to water testing labs. By clicking on this link you will see 6 listed labs with telephone #, and cost. Alternatively, call Cass Co. Environmental service at 218-547-7241.

## Annual Meeting - July 28 @ 9 am @ The Corral

Check out our web site: [www.mulelake.org](http://www.mulelake.org) Debi Gordon (daughter of lake residents Dave and Angele Larson) has offered to maintain our web site and shepherd us on the use of the Yahoo discussion site. We are grateful for this help.

Watch for an announcement on the annual Bernie Blackman golf tournament.

Now I will put on my other hat and report on this year's water quality. On May 28 I took a secchi disk reading. The disk disappeared at 14.5 feet. Usually at this time we have had readings of 20+ feet but as you probably remember we did have considerable rain just before this date. It is a good lesson as rain washes contaminants into the water including fertilizers, animal wastes, earth, septic waste from non-functioning systems and herbicides. Keep as much of your lakeshore natural as possible to filter out these contaminants. Two days later I did another reading and this time I could see the disk at 16.5 feet. It is most probably that there had been some settling by that time. On June 4 I took water samples to send into RMB Environmental Labs. I will do this 5 times during the summer. You all can go to [www.rmbel.info](http://www.rmbel.info) to check the results.

May your summer be sunny! Marj Dahlager

## Mule Lake Water Level

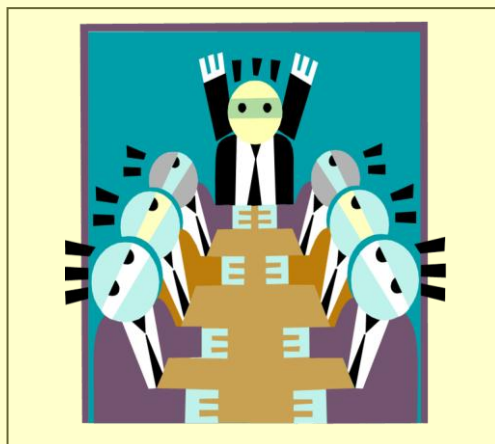
By Bob Savre

A reading of the water level in Mule Lake was taken on Saturday, May 19. As reported before the level of Mule Lake has varied by 43.5 inches during the past 43 years. The highest level was reached in 1999 and the lowest level occurred twice, once in 1977 and once in 1993. At the present time the lake is 12.8 inches above the low and 29.4 inches below the high. Another way of looking at it would be to consider the low as 0% and the high as 100%. Using this analysis, the lake is now at 29.4%. The lake is 3.9 inches lower than it was last May. I am not sure how the present level compares with the first day the ice was out.

## Executive Board Members

The MLPOA Executive Board Members are listed below with their expiration year:

President:	Marjorie Dahlager (2014)
Vice President:	Ernie Larsen (2012)
Secretary/Treasurer:	Bonnie Anderson (2013)
Directors at Large:	Tom Buss (2013) Phil Dukes (2012) Dennis Hagman (2012) Del Jacobson (2013) Rich Ohnesorge (2014) Al Zahn, ex officio



## July 4<sup>th</sup> Flotilla

Our traditional annual Mule Lake Flotilla is scheduled for July 4 at 2 p.m. at the Old North Access. Have fun and enjoy the day.

## Secretary/Treasurer Report

By Bonnie Anderson

### Treasurer's Report as of June 1, 2012

MLPOA	\$3,756.63
Healthy Lakes	\$5,138.62

### Membership Status:

Only 70% of the Mule Lake Property Owner's Association members have paid their 2011-2012 dues. If you have not paid, please submit your dues to Bonnie Anderson, 2864 Highway 84, Longville, MN 56655. The 2012-2013 dues will be payable after the July 28, 2012 annual meeting.

### Directory Updates:

The following corrections need to be added to the directory section of your handbook.

Lot #17 – Michael and Cindy Belanger, 309 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, NW, Elk River, MN 55330; Michael's cell is 763-370-1655 and Cindy's cell is 763-234-8751.

Lot #11a – Dean and Patti Gulsvig, 15825 Eastbend Way, Apple Valley, MN 55124; phone 651-200-2121.

Lot #43a – Mike and Patty Underwood, 3092 Highway 84, Longville, MN 56655; phone 218-682-2056;  
[Punder1@tds.net](mailto:Punder1@tds.net).

A new directory and the updated bylaws will be mailed in August for you to update your handbook. If you have any corrections or updates to the directory, please send them to Bonnie Anderson asap.

## New Owner – Mule Lake Store



Mule Lake Store new owner, Evan Foss, with former owners, Mike and Patty Underwood.

In January 2012, Evan Foss purchased the store from Patty and Mike Underwood who ran it for twenty years. Evan was raised in the Remer/Longville area and is a 2001 graduate of Northland High School in Remer. His parents, Dale and Sonja Foss, both are retired Remer teachers living on Thunder Lake. They will be helping Evan at the store as well. The same line of gasoline, groceries, bait and tackle are still available. Please stop in and introduce yourself.

## Cash Donations to MLPOA

Since 1994, MSRPO has grown to represent over 6,000 families that own lakeshore and forestland. We all know Minnesota's lakes face critical challenges today, and we – members of the board of Association of Cass County Lakes -- feel going with the MSRPO coalition is a good idea. This group is on our side protecting lakes with regard to recommending legislation at the Capitol. We all know aquatic invasive species (AIS) must be held in check, that spiraling property taxes continue to drive over development of riparian areas, while protection of our pristine lakes, their restoration and enhancement of their natural beauty, sometimes get a low priority for state funding sources.

With that in mind, individuals across the state must band together and engage the issues. MSRPO enables us to do that. It helps us stay up to date on events at the Capitol in St. Paul, through a lobbyist. The 6,000-strong MSRPO organization works actively to push a lake-saving agenda that will help solve the many problems we face as stewards of our individual lakes.

Grassroots power requires having “umbrella groups” such as MSRPO advocating for our side at the Capitol, looking out for our lake interests, leading and keeping us updated on legislative action. During the last session, MSRPO was very effective getting the latest AIS legislation passed.

***For these reasons the board of directors of ACCL endorses individual and lake association membership in MSRPO. By joining it (as ACCL has already done) you become part of a larger, statewide, valuable info-providing group that provides an array of services:***

- A direct voice at the state capitol with state agencies to influence regulations and policies that impact lakes.
- Timely legislative alerts and updates during legislative session to engage lake association members in grassroots support.
- An active voice in setting MSRPO's statewide political agenda.
- An advocate working year round to obtain funding to protect, enhance and restore our lakes.
- Informative communications to keep individual members up-to-date on relevant issues through regular printed newsletters, email, legislative alerts, webinars and website resources.
- Access to a network of statewide resources to build grassroots effectiveness at the state capitol.

**Visit the MSRPO Website for more Information and Membership forms:**

<http://www.msrpo.org/>

**The Association of Cass County Lakes (ACCL) Board of Directors.**

## Fishing

By Allan Zahn



2012 will be the second stocking of walleye fingerlings into Mule Lake. The stocking will not take place until this fall when approximately 480 pounds of various sizes of fingerlings will be stocked. With this newer strategy, began in 2010, fry will not be stocked into Mule. In 2010 4140 walleye fingerlings were stocked into Mule so a good estimate for 2012 would be around 4000 fingerlings will be stocked this fall.

During 2011, the DNR conducted creel surveys on many area lakes including Mule. The data which covered 12 lakes including Mule had an incredible amount of data. The document is only available electronically so if anyone would like to review the 217 pages, I will be happy to email it to you. Mule Lake is classified in the Class 23 group of lakes along with Baby, Ponto, Stony and Upper Trelipe. The collected results of the surveys are still being analyzed by the DNR so specific actions have not been identified by the DNR Fisheries. Here are some highlights.

Harvest summary:

An estimated total of 30,469 fish were caught, of which 4,352 fish (2,799 pounds) were harvested. Black crappie (54.6%) and sunfish (38.2%) accounted for most harvest, by number. An estimated 41 walleye were caught of which 20 were harvested (50.0%). The walleye catch and harvest rates (fish per angler-hour) for anglers targeting walleye were below the median and the lowest in Class 23 lakes (the next higher Class 23 Lake was Stony which was 5 times higher than Mule). The mean length and weight of harvested walleye were 20.00 inches and 2.63 pounds

Largemouth and smallmouth bass accounted for 43.3% of the total catch, but a 12 inch maximum regulation for largemouth and smallmouth bass limited the number of bass anglers could choose to harvest. Several largemouth bass were harvested, of which 28.5% exceeded the 12-inch maximum (not aware of citations). The 2011 largemouth bass catch rate on Mule Lake of 0.817 fish per angler-hour was lower than the 2007 catch rate on Mule Lake (0.963 fish per angler-hour) and within the range of those observed on other lakes. The 2011 smallmouth bass catch rate of 0.147 fish per angler-hour was lower than the 2007 catch rate on Mule Lake (0.165 fish per angler-hour) and within the range of those observed on other lakes.

Enjoy your fishing experience on Mule. See you on the lake.

## Northland Area Family Center – School

By Ernie and Carol Larsen



We appeal to the generous natures of our fellow Mule Lakers on behalf of needy children of our area. The need is unfortunately as great as ever. We will gratefully accept your donations for school supplies at the annual meeting in July, or you can send them directly to our Treasurer, Bonnie Anderson at 2864 State Hwy 84 if you are unable to attend the meeting. Thank you for your past support! We look forward to shopping for the children with your gifts before the start of the school year. The children and their teachers will bless you once again.

## AIS Ramblings

By Tom Buss

The Minnesota DNR announced a few days ago that zebra mussels were found in five more Minnesota lakes, bringing the total of identified lakes to 85. Many more may be infested but not yet confirmed. Boats that were in infested lakes including, Gull, Mille Lacs, and Minnetonka prior to launching into Mule Lake, have been inspected at our access. So far this summer, boats from Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois and Colorado have been observed using Mule Lake. They may or may not know Minnesota's laws and regulations. Because of Mule Lake's reputation as one of the top smallmouth bass lakes in the state of Minnesota, fisherman from near and far come here to fish. Boat inspectors continue to find well-meaning boaters who arrive to launch their boats with plugs in and an ignorance of the current laws. What would have happened if our volunteers were not there to remind them? We are fortunate to not yet have an infested lake.

The following quotes and observations are from unlucky lakeshore cabin owners on infested lakes:

Erika Johnson paid little attention to invasive species until two years ago when zebra mussels infested Pelican Lake, where her family has shared a cabin for 70 years. "The biggest thing is how sharp they are. So when you jump in the water they're like little mini razor blades," Johnson said. "It's like having a knife cut your foot. The kids get out of the water and blood is dripping off their feet." Johnson said some people no longer swim at the lake. Others only go in the water with shoes to protect their feet. Their cabin, which used to be the summer gathering place for all the family is no longer a place that people want to visit because the lake cannot be used as it was for three generations.

Medicine Lake resident Scott Burplechner has firsthand experience with zebra mussels. Following are his observations. "Zebra mussels reproduce like rabbits and are tough, clingy, and sharp, like razors.

My recollection is that zebra mussels were first detected in Cayuga Lake (in western New York State) in 1993 or 1994. The lake was fully infested with them by 1995. This is a lake that stretches 38 miles. Clumps of tiny razor sharp shells attached to any hard surface—rocks, docks, pipes, boats—and my perception is that the shallower the water, the greater the infestation. Within a year every boat in the lake had to be on a lift. They really clog intake lines on boats and irrigation systems. We had to start wearing shoes in the lake to prevent our feet from being cut. I have seen people dive from docks, brush the bottom of the lake, and come up with deep cuts from the zebra mussels. I have observed that the water appears clearer than it used to, allowing weeds to grow thicker and removing food from the eco-system for young fish.”

Similar anecdotes are easily found. What can we do to prevent a similar scenario on our lake? We have all heard the following. “It is inevitable. No matter what we do it is going to happen.” Or “I’m too busy! I have no time.” Or how about, “Someone else will do it. If I just sit back and not say anything, someone else will be responsible and

take over.” The Mule Lake Property Owners Board is very dedicated and willing to do their part but we need your help. What can you do? 1) Become educated about AIS. 2) Follow all “best practices” in cleaning and decontaminating your boat before launching it in Mule Lake. 3) Volunteer 16-20 hours during the summer as a boat inspector. 4) Report any violations to the appropriate authorities.

The boat inspection schedule is wide open for the summer. A copy of the sign-up sheet is in the log box located to the south of the public access on the Loughren property. You will soon be able to sign up on a calendar on an online site. We will be notifying you of this soon. If you are willing to help out email me [ktbuss@tds.net](mailto:ktbuss@tds.net). The combination for the storage box at the access is **6-8-2-0**.

***All it takes for the evil (invasives) to be successful is for a few good people to stand by and do nothing!***

Please tear off this page and send your directory updates to:

**Mule Lake Property Owner’s Association  
c/o Bonnie Anderson  
2864 State Hwy 84 NW  
Longville, MN 56655**

Please use this portion to reflect any directory changes and send them to Bonnie Anderson at the address above.

Owner’s Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (last) (first) (middle initial)  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 (last) (first) (middle initial)

Mule Lake Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mule Lake Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Home address (or seasonal address) if different from above: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (street address)  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 (city) (state) (Zip code)

Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_