

# MULE LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS

## ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Fall 2013

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

### President's Corner

By ex officio president Marj Dahlager

It is difficult for me to believe that fall is upon us. We did have another good summer, however.

I want to thank the Board of Directors and all of our lake members who have given me support and help during my terms as president. On August 17 the BOD met and chose Bob Schachtschneider teamed with Barb Schachtschneider as your current president. They graciously accepted.

This is a note of extreme appreciation to Peggy, daughter of Dennis and Jacque Hagman for formatting the newsletter each year. Also, Dennis and Jacque take the newsletter to Brainerd for printing. Thank you.

As many of you know who attended the MLPOA annual meeting we had a very successful social time as well as business meeting. Darby Nelson was our speaker and offered a comprehensive presentation on the health and beauty of our lakes with an emphasis on how to protect our lakes from invasive species and eutrophication by using good practices. For more information: [www.darbynelson.com](http://www.darbynelson.com)

Three members were elected to the board of directors through 2016.

- Bonnie Anderson was reelected and agreed to continue as secretary/ treasurer
- Brenda Mathison graciously offered to serve as a board member
- Wally Peterson also graciously offered to serve as a board member

The rest of the board of directors:

Delmar Jacobson	2014
Richard Ohnesorge	2014
Marjorie Dahlager	2014
Gary Smith	2015
Robert Schachtschneider	2015 President
Ernie Larson	2015 Vice President

The BOD is very grateful to The Corral for allowing us to use their facility for our annual meeting. Furthermore, they were very generous in providing door prizes. In addition Wheeler's Marine, The Mule Lake Store, Lakes Area Building center, Dennis and Jacque Hagman, Pam Dahlager, Ernie and Carol Larson, and Gary and Cindy Smith contributed door prizes.

Another note of appreciation goes to Matt Krueger who built and donated an informational sign for the lake access. Also, Wally Peterson and Paul Norman stained and helped to erect the sign. Many thanks.

Further thanks go to Eric Dahlager who provided a sign announcing the annual meeting.

In line with the health of Mule Lake here are a few hints and suggestions:

- Please do not rake leaves into the lake.
- No burning near the lake as the ash and pollutants wash into the lake.
- Pick up after your pet.
- Allow natural shoreline except for swimming and boating areas.
- Keep septic systems well-functioning.

Two pontoon socials were held this year with great success. All agreed to continue next year. Watch for announcements next spring.

Remember to check our web site, [www.mulelake.org](http://www.mulelake.org) for news and pictures.

## Mule Lake Fishing Report

By Allan Zahn

Earlier this year the fishing committee requested feedback from lake residents as to what they would like the DNR to consider when the Fish Management Plan (available on the web site) is being reviewed. Currently that review would not occur until, at the earliest, 2015 so any changes will not be evaluated until, at least, late next year. Thanks to those of you who, put in writing, your suggested changes to our FMP.

As most of you know, Mule Lake had a DNR fish survey (gill nets, trap nets plus electrofishing for LMB and SMB) conducted this past summer. Preliminary results of the 2013 DNR survey and a spreadsheet comparing results between the 2008 and the 2013 survey have been added to our website under the fisheries tab. It is quite detailed and informative. The DNR will not do a detail analysis until this coming winter when they review all of their fish surveys from 2013.

Walleye stocking is following the 2010 amendment (FMP Amendment 2010.pdf on our website) which stops fry stocking and increases stocking of fingerlings and yearlings into Mule in even years. 2014 is next scheduled stocking with 2015 a planned review of the stocking plan.

Key results from the 2008 to 2013 surveys were:

- Walleye population increased two-fold with most less than 13 inches in length
- Increase in northern pike with nearly 60% captured less than 18 inches in length
- Number of LMB and SMB down slightly but a slight increase in size
- Crappie population has increased but size reduced (more but smaller fish)
- Forage/pan fish (perch, sunfish, etc.) have increased but generally smaller in size

Hopefully your fall fishing will be quite enjoyable. See you on the lake – Fishing Committee.

## School Supplies Fund

By Ernie and Carol Larsen

Thanks to all who donated to our school supplies fund. Although we did not collect quite as much as some previous years, we were able to purchase enough supplies for most of the children of needy families from the Longville area. Just a note regarding the problems caused by the closing of the local elementary school: it resulted in some children having to ride the school bus for up to 2 1/2 hours per day! There's nothing we can do about that, but we can draw some comfort from the fact that we have provided them with some of the tools they need to learn, after their long bus ride! Bless all of you faithful contributors, and be assured that your gifts are deeply appreciated. The total donated this year was \$258.

## Water Quality Report

By Marjorie Dahlager

This year water quality was checked 13 times. The secchi disk readings varied from 13.5 ft on July 17 to 18.5 ft on August 15. Usually the water clarity is best in spring before the weeds start blooming and the algae are more prominent. This year it has been up and down due to weather conditions. We have had many windy days which make it hard to see the disk and also it roils the silt on the bottom of the lake which cuts down on visibility. I have also noticed that there have been more weeds in the lake.

Checking for phosphorus and chlorophyll a will have been done 5 times by the time you get this newsletter. These readings indicate the biomass (algae) content of the lake. Together with the secchi disk reading these two tests determine the Trophic State Index. This index indicates the health of the lake. Mule Lake TSI has remained fairly stable. Until we have had readings for 10 years no determination will be made as to the trend of the health of our lake. This program started in 2007 so the first determination will be after the 2017 season.

Go to [www.rmbel.info](http://www.rmbel.info) for our history of readings.

## Mule Lake Volunteers Log Over 250 Hours of Boat Inspections

By Tom Buss

As you drove past the public access this summer, you may have noticed individuals in blue "DNR Volunteer Boat Inspector" T-shirts talking to watercraft owners' as they were about to launch their boats into Mule Lake. These individuals were among 22 of your neighbors who made a commitment to spend 2 hours a week conducting boat inspections throughout the summer. During the over 250 hours that the access was manned, approximately 130 boats were inspected. The majority of the boats were from Minnesota but over 30 were from the states of Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri, North Dakota and Georgia. Of the boats and trailers inspected 4 had drain plugs in on arrival (potential \$100 fine) and 13 had weeds attached (potential \$500 fine). Nine boats had earlier been in a lake infested with Eurasian milfoil and three had last been in a lake infested with zebra mussels. The percentage of violations is less than last year but we need to be reminded that if the inspectors had not intervened it would only take one leaflet of Eurasian milfoil or one veliger (invisible larvae stage of a zebra mussel carried in water from one lake to the next) or zebra mussel attached to the boat, to begin the unwanted infestation of a lake.

**"What about next year?"** It appears to be the general census of the volunteers that we continue with the same process that was successful this year.

- The trained volunteers will select a two hour-long shift for the same day of the week all summer long. Example: A person would choose every Friday morning from 7 to 9 AM for the entire summer.
- If an inspector could not make a particular shift they would find a substitute.
- An untrained volunteer could assist a trained inspector on a shift.
- ACCL (Association of Cass County Lakes) has researched the possibility of lake associations purchasing a vehicle counter to be used at the access to determine the times that the access has the most traffic (a possible cost of \$500).
- The board has begun the discussion of the possibility of employing Level 1 or Level 2 inspectors (\$12-15 per hr).

### **"What can you do to help?"**

- Take the free DNR Volunteer Boat Inspector training and become an inspector.
- For many of you, volunteering your time is very difficult. As an alternative consider a cash donation to the lake association for the purpose of AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) prevention. Possible uses may include inspection equipment, print materials, hiring Level 1 or Level 2 inspectors, purchasing of a vehicle counter etc. If you wish to donate, send your check to:

Bonnie Anderson  
2864 Hwy 84  
Longville, MN 56655

Make out the check to: Mule Lake Property Owner's Association, note: Healthy Lakes

- Educate your friends and visitors about AIS and proper boat cleaning.

**Finally, as you take out your docks and boat lifts this fall check them very thoroughly for any signs of zebra mussels attached to the structures. If you have any questions contact Tom Buss at (218) 682-2081.**

# 5TH ANNUAL BERNIE BLACKMAN GOLF SCRAMBLE

By Dick Loughren / Golf Committee

26 Mule Lake Golfers enjoyed the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Bernie Blackman Golf Scramble, played at Ridgewood Golf Club on September 4, 2013. The annual Mule Lake golf outing is named in memory of Bernie Blackman, a lake resident who was an avid teacher and promoter of the game of golf. The scramble was hosted by Frances Blackman and her family.

Final results/awards were as follows:

- Championship Team Gross Score: Avis Savre and Ed Hammersten -- score 40
- Championship Team Net Score: Harriet Mouw and Bob Schachtschneider – score 35
- Longest Putt on # 9: Bob Schachtschneider -- 5' 9"
- Closest to the Pin on # 1 (Executive Course): Linda Blackman – 10'

A buffet dinner was enjoyed afterwards at the Corral Food and Liquors. Thanks to the Corral for providing prizes and to the Blackman Family for hosting this scramble.



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

**Mule Lake Property Owner's Association**  
2864 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: \_\_\_\_\_