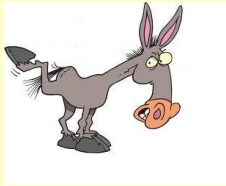


MULE LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER — SPRING 2013

Annual Meeting: Join us on July 27 @ 9:00 a.m. @ the Corral



President's Corner

By Marj Dahlager

Last year's spring newsletter was written when the weather was calm and sunny. Guess what? Today is cool and cloudy. I am looking forward to a calm and sunny 2013. One can't help to be optimistic when overlooking Mule Lake.

Tom Buss has been diligent in trying to make it easier for trained volunteers to sign up to monitor the access for aquatic invasive species control. He has an article in this newsletter with suggestions for this very important effort. There will be a training session for those who would like to be trained.

Remember to participate in the July 4 boat flotilla at 2 p.m. either by joining in or watching and waving from shore. Decorated boats are enjoyed by all. Gather at the former access near the head of the lake.

Bonnie Anderson will be reminding us of the importance of belonging to the Mule Lake Property Owners Assn. (MLPOA) by paying yearly dues. Our fiscal year goes from annual meeting to annual meeting. The board uses these dues judiciously to benefit the lakeshore residents. I would like to add my thanks to Bonnie for her many years of serving as the secretary/treasurer, as well as taking on many other tasks which have benefitted all of us.

Speaking of annual meetings, save Saturday July 27, 9 a.m. at the Corral for our annual get together. Coffee, donuts and fruit will be served followed by a business meeting. There will be door prizes.

Last year there was a gathering of pontoon boats for a late afternoon social. For those who participated it was

great fun. We tied boats together, shared appetizers, and brought our choice of beverage. Some swam off the boats. We all visited and got to know one another. It was so much fun that we are going to suggest two pontoon parties this year. The first will be July 18 at 4 p.m. The second will be August 15 at 4 p.m. The more the merrier. Share your pontoon with neighbors.

There are some terrific pictures of Mule Lake on our web site www.mulelake.org. Take a look.

Yes, we will have the annual Bernie Blackman golf tournament. Dick Loughren will send out the particulars at a later date. Take it from a "duffer," we have great fun regardless of ability. Consider joining us this year.

Again I am appealing to lakeshore residents to consider serving on the MLPOA board of directors if asked. Better yet, offer to serve! We meet in May, July, August and sometimes in September to take care of business. We want to keep our organization strong. Thank you.

Mule Lake losses: I am sorry to report that we have lost 2 residents and 2 former residents with connections to Mule Lake. They will be missed.

- Pat Larson was a former president of the MLPOA and helped shepherd the acquisition of the Mule Lake State Wildlife Management Area.
- Al Gosen was a long-time resident who lived on the west shore of Mule Lake.
- Don Peck, father of Terry Zimmerman, lived at the former North Bay Resort which was owned by Ron and Terry.
- Bill Koons formerly owned a resort on the west shore of Mule Lake.

The board is thinking that a gathering at the Corral one evening for an informal dinner and conversation during the summer might be fun. We have set that up for August 6 at 6 p.m. As the Corral is normally closed on Tuesday we will be asking for an RSVP as we get closer to the date. Put it on your calendar.

The board of directors approved financing the water testing program for 2013. I am in charge of secchi disk (clarity) readings as often as I can get out. The ideal is once a week but with weather and scheduling conflicts usually I have obtained 7 to 13 observations. This is a DNR sponsored program and does not cost the association.

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(President's Message Continued)

The collections for water quality cost \$240. Collections are made 5 times a year and are sent to the RMB lab for analysis of phosphorus, chlorophyll a, and additional secchi disk comparison. The first collection was done on June 2. The water clarity registered at 13.5 ft. This is low for this time of the year but we need to remember that the weather has been very wet. Some of our rains have been heavy and constant, therefore, washing pollutants into the water. To see complete results go to www.rmbel.info

Remember that everything we do to our land affects the health of the lake.

- Well-functioning septic systems are essential.
- Using less toxic cleaning supplies are suggested.
- Non phosphorus fertilizers are preferred and pesticides should be used sparingly.

This web site is informative:

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/shoreland/factsheets.html>

Executive Board Members

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

President:	Marjorie Dahlager (2014)
Vice President:	Ernie Larsen (2015)
Secretary/Treasurer:	Bonnie Anderson (2013)
Directors at Large:	Tom Buss (2013)
	Del Jacobson (2013)
	Rich Ohnesorge (2014)
	Bob Savre (2014)
	Gary Smith (2015)
	Bob Schachtschneider (2015)

Treasurer's Report

Thank you to all of you who have paid your dues. We are a little behind this year. As we approach the end of our 2012-2013 year, only 43 members have paid versus 59 last year. If you have not paid your current dues yet, please submit them to:

Bonnie Anderson
2864 Hwy 84
Longville, MN 56655

The 2013-2014 dues will be due in July. The dues are \$20.00.

Balances:	
Healthy Lakes	\$4,955.08
Mule Lake Property Owner's Assoc.	\$3,755.41

Mule Lake Water Level

By Bob Savre

It is obvious to all of you that the lake is up, but the question is how far up. As you have heard me say many times, I have been tracking the lake level for the past 40 years. I have a reference point at the bottom of our steps and we measure how far the water level is below the reference point. The lowest level we have ever reached in the past 40 years is -45. In other words the low water level was 45 inches below our reference point. The last time we recorded that low was in 1993. The highest level was -1.5. That means the high level was 1.5 inches below our reference point. The last time this occurred was in 1999. A little subtraction shows that our lake has varied by 43.5 inches.

Last year on May 19 the water level was at -32.2, but by June 23 it had risen to -18.8. Then the lake started to drop and by September 18 it was back down to -27.2. This year we started out on May 18 right after the ice out at -18 or 14.2 inches higher than last May. Now with all the late May rains the lake was up to -15 on June 1.

Being a spring fed lake with no inlet or outlet, Mule Lake does not always react the same as some of our neighboring lakes with inlets, outlets, and sometimes dams. The question is will we have to raise docks again this summer or will it start going the other way?

LOON RAFTS

By Bob Savre

Last fall I constructed two loon rafts. The rafts were made with cedar logs on the four sides and a porous cover on top. Also I added a little ramp for the loons to climb on. Our lake association covered the expenses of the construction. I had built a similar raft using lumber about ten years ago and the loons were on it for three years.

I placed one raft up in head of the lake in the grassy area where the loons have regularly nested. The water was too high this year for them to build a natural nest in that particular place. Ernie Larsen took the other raft and placed it down in the southeast corner.

Two loons were watching closely as Ed Hammersten and I left the raft in the middle of the weeds. A couple days later I went out and their droppings indicated they had been on the raft. Now June is here and they have not used it for a nest. That just shows you that you can't control Mother Nature.

I hope the loons have found another good spot so that we have little ones again this year. We will probably put the raft up on shore in the vicinity of where it is and try again next year.

Fishing Report

By Allan Zahn

At this time of the 2013 season, it appears the fishing success is quite limited. Our DNR access looked to be fairly busy for a couple days but now has just a few anglers trying to find walleyes, crappies or bass indicating that the fishing continues to struggle.

Last fall the DNR Fisheries stocked Mule Lake with 482 pounds of walleye fingerlings (number of fish was 3,125 totaling 246 pounds) and yearlings (number of fish was 761 totaling 236 pounds). Hopefully our numerous northern and bass let these small walleyes grow up to be the main course at one of our dinners. Regarding the northern, please keep those small northern to attempt to eliminate some of the predator fish to those stocked walleyes.

The DNR Fisheries will be conducting electrofishing for bass around the middle of June to see how the population of bass has changed over the past years. The results from the electrofishing should be available later this year.

Also, around the middle of July, the DNR Fisheries will be conducting the planned (surveys scheduled every five years) fishing population assessment using gill and trap nets around the lake. This will require about three days of netting and the DNR requests our support by staying away from the DNR buoys supporting the gill and trap nets so they are not disrupted. Approximately 6 to 10 nets/traps will be located in various locations around Mule. It will be interesting to compare the results in the latest survey (2008) to the 2013 survey to see how the fish population is changing. To look at the 2008 results just go to www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind. Mule lake inventory number is 11020000 and web site has a variety of reports covering fishing surveys, clarity and vegetation as well as maps of Mule Lake. Although some of the reports are a bit dated, they do provide interesting details regarding Mule Lake.

Enjoy fishing and the recreation this season on Mule. See you on the lake – Allan Zahn.

Join Your Neighbors For A Free Lunch And AIS Discussion

By Tom Buss

The 2013 boating season poses the greatest threat so far for Mule and surrounding lakes. Last year zebra mussel veliger (the invisible to the naked eye larvae of the zebra mussel) were discovered in Lake Winnibigoshish. Most AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) experts see area "destination lakes" like Leech, Woman, Boy, Little Boy, Wabedo, Roosevelt, Ten Mile, and Washburn as the next potential contamination points. Mule Lake with an average of a half dozen boats using the public access daily may not be far behind. Because there is no treatment to eliminate zebra mussels once they establish themselves in a lake, the only option is to prevent them from being brought into a lake. Boat inspection programs have been proven to prevent contaminated boats from being launched. Many of the above mentioned lakes have set up effective inspection programs.

Because of Mule Lake's relatively small size we were unable to compete for grants to hire state inspectors (President Marj Dahlager's grant application requesting assistance was denied last winter), therefore we are left to our own resources. So far we have over 30 property owners on Mule Lake trained as DNR Volunteer Boat Inspectors. During the past two years we have tried many different methods (some effective; others not) to establish a presence at the public access. It was time to try a fresh approach. We invited all trained volunteers and other interested property owners to a **free** lunch and open discussion on AIS prevention and boat inspection ideas for Mule Lake. This was held at the Mule Lake Corral at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 22. RSVP were made to Tom Buss at (218) 682-2081. Everyone was encouraged to attend and bring their ideas.

School Supply Drive

By Carol and Ernie Larsen

It's hard to believe, but our annual meeting is coming up in just a few weeks. Your board of directors met in May, and strongly supported the continuation of our fund drive for school supplies for needy children of the Longville area, who are now attending three different elementary schools since the closing of the Longville School. We are assured by the staff of the Family Center that the need is as great as ever. So please give some thought to how fortunate we all are to have a house or cabin on beautiful Mule Lake. Then respond generously, as you have in years past to our appeal, for which we will solicit donations at the annual meeting. We will have a basket at our treasurer's desk where you can drop your donations.

Thank you once again for your generosity in years past. We look forward to seeing you all at the meeting!

What Can YOU do to Halt the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)?

“Eyes and Ears of the Lake” is Good Lake Stewardship

VISIT www.dnr.state.mn.us for more information



Zebra Mussels impact recreational use of lakes



Zebra Mussels can attach to aquatic plants



Juvenile Zebra Mussels are small



Zebra Mussels on a native clam
ALSO: Zebra Mussels deplete food supply for native fish

- **Hire dock & boat lift installers that are DNR trained Lake Service Providers**
They are trained to protect non-infested waters from AIS and identify new infestations. It's the law for anyone working for hire in Minnesota public waters - the business is required to obtain a \$50 DNR permit. The employee is required to obtain a FREE DNR certification online. (DNR website - search *LSP*) Use your Smartphone to scan this QR code for a list of DNR permitted Lake Service Providers.

Ask to see the DNR issued certificate of the LSP dock and lift worker. They are required to carry. Businesses and workers that are properly trained will be happy to show you their credentials.



- **Know that watercraft and all water-related equipment can spread AIS** Adult Zebra Mussels (ZM) can live for up to 30 days and ZM larvae (veligers) are microscopic and cannot be seen. Veligers can live in water for up to 27 days - so any watercraft that has moist areas and not completely dry could transport live veligers when moving boats from lake to lake. That includes all wakeboard/fishing/sail boats, jet skis, scuba gear, float planes, canoes, kayaks, all fishing gear, waders and waterfowl hunting gear. **CLEAN DRAIN and DRY** thoroughly before going from lake to lake.

- **Moving a dock, boatlift or other water-related equipment is risky** Docks, boat lifts, rafts and all other water-related equipment must be out of water at least 21 days prior to installing into another lake. **IT'S THE LAW!** If purchasing used equipment, be cautious about where it previously had been installed. The safest is to let used equipment freeze over winter and install in the spring.

- **Educate guests!** Make sure transported watercraft or water-related equipment of guests arriving from other lakes/ivers (including out-of-state) are free of zebra mussels and other Aquatic Invasive Species. (Eurasian watermilfoil, spiny water fleas and others not yet in Minnesota - like hydrilla)

Watercraft coming from infested waters should adhere to recommended dry times or professional decontamination. (100thmeridian.org - search *dry time estimator*)

- **Know current laws and follow them.** Before leaving public accesses, water must be drained from all water-related equipment. All bait containers with lake water must be drained and watercraft must be transported with the plug out. (DNR website - search *invasive species laws*)

- **Know where designated infested waters are** in Minnesota (DNR website - search *infested waters*) and other states. It is important to know that others waters could be infested and not yet identified. It is best to take precautions when moving any watercraft or equipment from lake to lake. This means treating with 140° water for 10 seconds or drying for recommended times which can be found at: 100thmeridian.org search *dry time estimator*. A unilateral 5 days in MN is not enough.

- **Learn to identify each aquatic invasive** (zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, spiny water fleas, rusty crayfish etc). Be aware of AIS not currently in MN such as hydrilla which is in Iowa.

- **Promote good relationships** among your lake neighbors. Make sure neighbors know how to prevent the spread of AIS and follow the laws of the state. Boats coming from other lakes should take precautions.

- **Report suspected new AIS sightings to the DNR.** It's the law!

QUESTIONS: DNR - Ecological and Water Resources - 651-259-5100

www.dnr.state.mn.us



Produced and distributed by
Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations (MN COLA)
MinnesotaCOLA@gmail.com

As of 05.01.2013

Handbook Corrections

Lot #31 – New email address for Rayla Allison alli0069@umn.edu

Associate member, new address:

Ron and Terre Zimmerman
108 Tahitian Way
No. Port, FL 34287
941-423-5951
Northbay78@gmail.com

Lot#16 new owner
Todd and Karen Athmann
9480 Woodcrest Lane Becker, MN 55308
320-267-7643 and 763-482-1296
Todd.Athmann@Stantec.com

If you have any corrections, please send them to Bonnie Anderson on the attached membership form.

Annual Meeting – Guest Speaker

Darby Nelson will address our annual meeting on July 29th. Darby is a retired college professor, former Minnesota legislator, active conservationist and author. "For the Love of Lakes", his most recent book, will be available at the meeting. Please plan to attend and bring your questions and participate in the discussion to follow Darby's address.

Please tear off this page and send it with your \$20 annual dues or directory updates to: **Bonnie Anderson
2864 State Hwy 84 NW
Longville, MN 56655**

_____ Your MLPOA annual dues are current

_____ Submit your \$20 annual dues payment for the current fiscal year (July 1 through June 30)

Even if your dues are current, 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: _____

Bonnie Anderson
2864 State Hwy 84 NW
Longville, MN 56655