

# MULE LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Spring 2011

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

## President's Comments

By Allan Zahn

Hopefully those of us who head south for the winter are settled into their summer homes and ready to enjoy our beautiful lake. The ice out date was April 24th and the water temps are slowly rising. Soon guests will be visiting and our schedules will get quite busy.

Last fall the property owner's handbook was distributed door-to-door to those who were still at the lake. We decided not to send out the handbooks as it would be fairly costly and we thought nearly everyone would prefer to have their handbooks at the lake anyway. If you have not received yours, please contact Bonnie Anderson. The handbook was financed by monies we received from our previous Healthy Lakes effort to produce our Lake Management Plan document in 2007.

As part of another opportunity resulting from the LMP effort, we have begun two additional projects with matching funds (\$5000) from the Initiative Foundation. The two projects are:

Public Access Monitoring for Aquatic Invasive Species led by Tom Buss (most of you would have already heard from Tom and may have attended the training). AIS awareness is extremely important to all of us so this project really enables ML residents to give our best shot in preventing invasive species from entering Mule Lake. See Tom's update later in this letter.

Reforestation of the Quiet Place led by Dennis and Jacque Hagman. This project is just getting off the ground so you'll hear more on this later this year. The primary commitment from Mule Lake residents will be to provide in-kind labor to prepare and plant DNR selected trees/bushes and possibly monies to purchase plantings.

The MLPOA Executive Board (officers and directors) is currently reviewing our bylaws, in particular regarding voting of directors and officers, to identify potential modifications. Proposed changes will first be reviewed and approved by the Executive Board and, if approved by the Executive Board, will be presented at the annual meeting for membership approval.

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Contact Ernie Larsen or Allan Zahn if you have questions or comments.

The vegetation survey conducted last fall for Mule Lake will be available later in June. I will provide a link to the information from our website after it is placed on the DNR's website. I will be receiving a hard copy which I will bring to our annual meeting for those who do not have internet access. The DNR team leader indicated they did not locate any invasive species in Mule Lake. This was conducted at no cost to MLPOA.

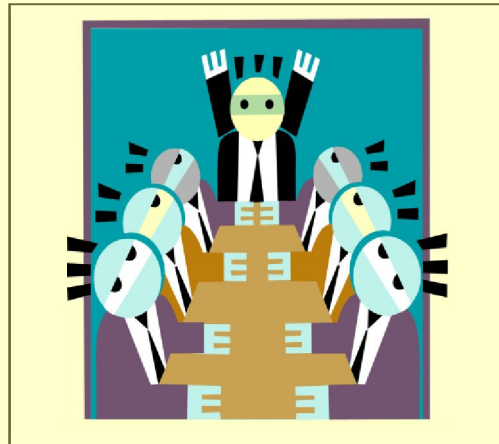
Last year we changed our annual meeting date/time to have it held the last Saturday of July at 9AM. Our attendance jumped by at least 40% so we decided to continue with the date/time/location (Saturday July 30<sup>th</sup> at the Corral Bar). Please come around 8:30 or so you have time to mingle with neighbors as the meeting will begin promptly at 9AM. We need to be completed before 11AM when the Corral opens for their Saturday luncheon business. We are in process of putting the agenda together which will cover normal business, update on Healthy Lakes projects, election new board members and, hopefully, a speaker on AIS related issues.

We have four positions expiring at the end of July so are looking for several interested candidates. Someone from the Nominating Committee (Dennis Hagman, Phil Dukes or Barb Schaschneider) will likely contact you over the next month or so to see if you are willing to toss in your hat. Contact any one of them if you have an interest. The meeting will finish with many prizes for those in attendance.

## Executive Board Members

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

President:	Allan Zahn (2011)
Vice President:	Ernie Larsen (2012)
Secretary/Treasurer:	Bonnie Anderson (2011)
Directors at Large:	Tom Buss (2013) Marj Dahlager (2011) Phil Dukes (2012) Dennis Hagman (2012) Kathy McMenoman (2011) Bob Savre (2013)



## Secretary/Treasurer Report

By Bonnie Anderson

### Treasurer's Report as of June 1, 2011

MLPOA	\$3,276.25
Healthy Lakes	\$ 279.88

If you have not paid your 2010-2011 dues, please send them to Bonnie Anderson soon as the 2011-2012 dues will be due at the annual meeting (July 30).

### Membership Status:

We have 78 properties that pay dues and as of June 1, 2011; 62 have paid for 2010-2011.

### Directory Updates:

Most of the Mule Lake Property Owners Association Handbooks have been delivered. If you have not received yours, contact Bonnie Anderson and she will deliver it or you can pick it up at her house. The Executive Board has decided to send minor updates of the directory in our newsletters. Therefore, the following corrections need to be added to the directory section of your handbook.

Lots #81 and 83 – Robert and Barbara Schachtschneiders' home address should be changed to 76 Jenny Lane, Longville, MN 56655

Lot #50 – Add email address for Brenda Blake ([montiprint@tds.net](mailto:montiprint@tds.net))

Lot #29 – Betsy and Bill Osborn – eliminate and change to Russell Edin, 12995 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, SW, Brainerd, MN 56401; phone 218-851-2359; email [Russell.Edin@gmail.com](mailto:Russell.Edin@gmail.com)

## Newsletter Distribution

In last fall's newsletter, I asked who would prefer their newsletter be delivered only on email. Many residents preferred email so we will only send via email. The newsletter will be distributed by email to everyone that has a valid email address in our directory with printed copies only to those who have not requested email. It makes our communication much easier, less expensive and less restrictions on numbers of pages but does change our process a bit. For example, it does complicate how we communicate dues status and address or phone changes but will get that worked out. Make sure Bonnie Anderson has any changes to your name, address, phone(s), email, etc. and if you are interested in getting the newsletter only by email, let Bonnie know that as well.



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

4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY FLOTILLA, 2 P.M., OLD NORTH ACCESS

Remember to mark your calendar for our traditional annual Mule Lake Flotilla which is scheduled for July 4 at 2 p.m. Last year we had approximately 25 entries, some quite creative, so bring your watercraft entry to the old north access just before 2 p.m. Paul Norman, and his Mule Lake mascot, has agreed to lead the flotilla with the rest of us following Paul in no particular order. Have fun and enjoy the day.

## Cash Donations to MLPOA

For your background, our Healthy Lakes fund is managed separate from the MLPOA Operational funds which support expenditures for annual meetings, ongoing expenses such as mailing/copying, various memberships like ACCL and Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation, etc. The operations source of revenue is directly from your dues of \$20.

The Healthy Lakes fund supports projects like the recently completed property owner's handbook and current projects of AIS access monitoring and reforestation of the "Quiet Place" plus future unidentified healthy lakes projects. We frequently will get matching funds from various agencies (most funds have come from the Initiative Foundation) but would normally only cover a portion of our total project costs. Therefore, revenue support from lake residents would enable these current and future healthy lakes projects to be funded. As you can see in the treasury report, the healthy lakes fund is pretty small although we do have access to \$5000 as matching funds for MLPOA in-kind labor or cash for the current/future projects.

MLPOA Executive Board members have received requests from some lake residents who are interested in donating cash to MLPOA. Those requests were driven, in



part, by residents who were unable to provide in-kind labor. We have many lake residents who are only at Mule Lake on selected weekends or for a few extended periods during the summer or may have health issues and, therefore, are unavailable to provide labor to support projects within the Mule Lake Healthy Lakes programs. The Executive Board decided they would accept any additional financial contributions and will earmark those donations to projects stemming from our Healthy Lakes program. However, it is important to note that MLPOA is not a 501C3 organization (tax-exempt organization), and, as such, any contribution is not considered eligible for charitable contributions.

All cash donations should be sent directly to Bonnie Anderson, our treasurer, and identified as donations to MLPOA Healthy Lakes Projects. The Executive Board, in turn, will allocate those monies to appropriate healthy lakes projects. Thanks to any and all residents who consider this financial support opportunity. If you have any questions please contact one of the Executive Board.

## AIS Board Inspections

This spring the Mule Lake Property Owners Association embarked on a pro-active project designed to protect our lake from being infested with aquatic invasive species. Most of you know that many lakes in Minnesota have become infested with zebra mussels (Minnetonka, Mille Lacs, and Gull to name a few). Zebra Mussels represent the greatest threat for area lakes. They can have a devastating effect on water quality, fishing, and general use of a lake. Mussels attach to boats, nets, docks, swim platforms, boat lifts, and can be moved on any of these objects. They also can attach to aquatic plants, making it critical to remove all aquatic vegetation before leaving a lake. Microscopic larvae may be carried in water contained in bait buckets, bilges or any other water moved from an infested lake or river.

At the present time there is no "cure" for the problem and the expense to control the spread is very high. At the May 27<sup>th</sup> Association of Cass County Lakes meeting we received a report from the President of the Gull Lake

association. A lake service provider discovered zebra mussels in Gull Lake last year. The president informed us that the Gull Lake Association has purchased a \$25,000 decontamination station that will be located at one of their public accesses. They are also hiring 2 people to man the decontamination station for 14 hours a day for the entire summer at a cost of approximately \$40,000. The cost of this project is being financed totally by the lake association.

After the June 4<sup>th</sup> DNR Boat Inspection Training Session we will have approximately 30 certified Mule Lake property owners who will be ready to begin inspecting boats at the public access. We had hoped to be "up and running" by now but due to a number of delays we have postponed the boat inspections until a week or two before the Fourth of July weekend. If you would like to help out call or email Tom Buss at (218) 682-2081 or [ktbuss@tds.net](mailto:ktbuss@tds.net).

## Northland Area Family Center – School Supplies



By Ernie and Carol Larsen

Thank you for last year's very generous support of \$320. It is time again for our annual appeal on behalf of the children of our area who are in need. For several years now, we have collected funds, shopped for school supplies, and delivered them to the Northland Area Family Center for distribution. As we did last year, we are asking you to please send your donation to our treasurer, Bonnie Anderson, especially if you cannot attend our annual picnic, where we are always happy to accept your financial gifts for this worthwhile endeavor. The Center and its clients are extremely grateful for our help, which is needed again this year especially during these difficult economic times.

## Fishing

### Walleye Stocking

The table below details the walleye stocking handled last fall. As you can see, 482 pounds of various sizes were stocked with a total number of fish at 4,140. This was the first stocking since the new fish management plan was implemented in 2010. The essence of the new plan is to eliminate fry stocking and stock larger fingerlings every other year beginning in 2010. Hopefully a good percentage of these fingerlings will become good producers of new walleye fry in Mule Lake. Like the chart below, the DNR Fisheries will continue to stock the larger fish in even years moving forward. The fish management plan will be reviewed in 2015.

Stocking date	Species	Size	Lake	Rate No/lb	Lbs stocked	Total stocked
9/21/10	WAE	YRL	Mule	9	59	531
9/21/10	WAE	ADL	Mule	3	46	138
10/1/10	WAE	YRL	Mule	10	82	820
10/4/10	WAE	YRL	Mule	10	87	870
10/7/10	WAE	YRL	Mule	10	50	500
10/11/10	WAE	YRL	Mule	10	34	340
10/13/10	WAE	FGL	Mule	8	73	584
10/13/10	WAE	FGL	Mule	7	51	357
		Weighted	Avg	8.6	482	4140

### Catch & Release Longville Area Lakes

For many years, MLPOA has supported the Catch & Release Longville Area Lakes program and will likely do so this year. It's an excellent program and we encourage you to participate. You will likely see some of the C & R hats on Mule Lake as well as other neighboring lakes. Jim Lewis, who currently heads up the program, has taken over for Roger Frank who initiated the program. Contact Jim for questions at 218-682-2499.

### Contour Mapping of Mule Lake

LakeMaster, a company that markets GPS chips, completed their contour mapping of Mule Lake last fall. Their new SD chips are now available for purchase with the new contour map of Mule. This will provide a more accurate contour of Mule Lake for the fishermen/women.

### Tagging of Bass

The MN Dept Nat Resources Fisheries staff from Walker is doing a large and smallmouth bass tagging project on Blackwater and Mule Lakes this summer. Beginning early June we will begin marking bass with yellow numbered, plastic "spaghetti" tags which are inserted below the dorsal fin. Bass will be collected at night using our electrofishing boat, which temporarily stuns the fish so they can be placed in a live well. After being measured and tagged, the fish are released back to the lake.

Anglers catching tagged fish are asked to report the tag # of the fish to the Walker Fisheries office 218-547-1683 or email this information to [calub.shavlik@state.mn.us](mailto:calub.shavlik@state.mn.us). Information from the tagging will be used to estimate the population of large and smallmouth bass in each of these lakes. Please support our DNR Fisheries in this effort.

# Water Quality Monitor

By Marjorie Dahlager

The first Secchi disk reading and collection of water for testing was done on June 5, 2011. Although the water had a greenish tint and there was moderate algae and tree fuzz observed the Secchi disk was visible at 20 feet. The result of the phosphorus and chlorophyll-a will be available in a couple weeks at [lakes@rmbel.info](mailto:lakes@rmbel.info).

Overall lake water quality can be summarized by three measurements, total phosphorus, chlorophyll-a and water transparency (Secchi depth). Generally, the more phosphorus there is in the lake, the more plants and algae can grow. Phosphorus can enter through runoff from agriculture, fertilized lawns, erosion, manure, improperly maintained septic systems, leaf and yard litter, as well as

other sources. Chlorophyll-a is the pigment that makes plants and algae green. If the chlorophyll-a reading is high it means that there is a large amount of algae. When phosphorus increases, there is more food available for algae, so algae increases. When algae increases, the water becomes less transparent and the Secchi depth decreases.

There will be 4 more water collections over the summer. Usually the Secchi disk reading will be done every week to two weeks. If we all are careful about what runs into our lake we will live on a pristine body of water.

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

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bonnie Anderson**  
**2864 State Hwy 84 NW**  
**Longville, MN 56655**