

Lake Detroiters Association

ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, June 9, 2012

Holiday Inn



Editor, Dick Hecock

Visit the new LDA website at www.lda-dl.com!

Lake Detroiters Association - Official Website | Detroit Lakes, MN

http://www.lda-dl.com/

Lake Detroiters Association

Home Board Members Beach Captains Membership Meeting Minutes Resources Calendar Contact



Welcome to the Lake Detroiters Association New Web Site!

LDA Mission Statement

"To promote the protection and enhancement of Detroit Lake"

The LDA web site is a resource for sharing of information for Lake Detroiters Association members and provides compelling reasons for non-members to join. This web site is also a communication tool providing a conduit for information exchange with the greater lakes area community in support of our common Mission.

The "quality of life" that we as homeowners and residents of the Detroit Lakes area enjoy depends upon "the protection and enhancement of Detroit Lake". The success we have in maintaining this "quality of life" goes hand in hand with the strength of our LDA membership!

At present, 30% of property owners on Big and Little Detroit Lake belong to LDA. The LDA Board of Directors is committed to increasing this number to 100%. If you are a current LDA member, thank you for your support. If you are not a member we ask that you join our efforts to effectively address the serious threats which our lake faces, the most critical of which is Aquatic Invasive Species. Join today Welcome Aboard!



Lake Detroit Beach Captains
View the beaches map and current captains' contact information



Memberships
Register for \$25 annual membership fee online [Join Today!](#)

Upcoming events
Annual Meeting
June 11, 2011 4:00-7:00 PM
Detroit Lakes Holiday Inn
[Join Us Today!](#)

Key features you'll find at www.lda-dl.com:

- Register online to become a Lake Detroiters Association Member
- View beach captains and board members information
- Find valuable resources on preserving the quality of the lake

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

8:30 AM – Rolls n' Coffee

9 AM - Meeting

Call to Order

Introductions

Additions to and approval of Agenda

Secretary's Report

Treasurer's Report

Aquatic Plant Management – FR Research

PRWD Update

AIS Inspection Project

AIS Enforcement Enhancements

Legislative Update

Beach Captains update

Nominations and Election of New Board Members

Adjourn

Lake Detroiters Association

Board Members and Terms

Officers

President - Open 2012-2015

Vice President, Mike Metelak, 2010-2013

Secretary, Laurie Olson, 2010-2013

Treasurer, Rene'e Alsop, 2010-2013

Members

Dennis Fuhrman 2011-2014

Curt Jundt , 2010-2013

Carl Fingalson, 2008-2011

Jeff Jasperson, 2011-2014

Julie Herman, 2011-2014

Dave Welte, 2011-2014

Dick Hecock, 2011-2014

Carol Bergren, 2011-2014

Barb Halbakken-Fischburg, 2009-2012 COLA Representative

PRWD Representative – Ginny Imholte



June 9, 2012

Dear Lake Detroiters Members,

“To promote the protection and enhancement of Detroit Lake”

Detroit Lake is “unique” to Becker County and our region as it is truly an “economic engine” that helps drive our local economy. Clearly Lake Detroit can be viewed as a “business without walls” and it is a “community asset” that must continue to be safeguarded.

In reviewing the activities of your LDA over the past year and comparing it to our mission statement.....one can conclude that your LDA was “laser like focused” on supporting our mission statement! Below are some examples of programs and activities that LDA collaborated with other organizations such as; the Pelican River Watershed District (PRWD), Minnesota DNR, Becker County COLA, and Area Lake Associations:

- Sponsored organized the successful 2nd annual AIS Legislative Summit held in January in DL
- Collaborated with the PRWD to establish a watercraft inspection program for Lake Detroit public accesses
- LDA and Becker County COLA board member Barb Halbakken-Fischburg was actively involved in shaping the new DNR AIS legislation
- Facilitated the first Lake Service Providers training meeting in DL
- Completed a successful door to door LDA Beach Captain event handing out materials to Lake Detroit homeowners prior to the annual LDA June 9, 2012 meeting
- Active with Becker County and the City of DL in shaping lakeshore development ordinances and the supported the development of an AIS coordinator position for Becker County

We can all be very proud of what your LDA has accomplished to raise the level of awareness of some of the activities we can undertake to protect our lake, our property values, and our community’s most treasured asset.

At the same time, in order for any organization to improve we must look at our “weaknesses”; or areas where improvement is needed to sustain our LDA into the future. The consensus of the LDA Board of Directors is that our primary weakness is in the area of **membership**. Currently, **less than 30%** of our lake property owners are members of LDA. During the next year, one of our primary strategic efforts will be to **increase membership**. In order for our LDA to be successful, we must understand the concerns of all property owner as well as those businesses that directly and indirectly economically benefit from the business activity generated by Detroit Lake. **This means we must grow our membership!**

One of our main responsibilities as a LDA is to **communicate, inform, and educate** our stakeholders.

Two of our board members; Carol Bergren and Laurie Olson co-chair our 34 Beach Captains that are assigned to specific beaches on the lake to facilitate keeping our lakeshore homeowners informed. Our web site www.lda-dl is also kept current to keep our members informed. We are counting on our current LDA members to visit with your neighbors about the benefits for being a member of LDA. I think our success in carrying out our mission statement of **“Promoting the protection and enhancement of Detroit Lake”** goes hand in hand with **increasing our membership**.

We need more members to follow the example of Jack Chivers and Bruce Imholte who have volunteered to assist us in increasing our residential and business membership. Last year we started a new watercraft inspection program at the various public accesses. Thanks to Becky DePree for volunteering to hire and schedule the inspectors time throughout the summer. This was a time consuming and thankless job and her effort is greatly appreciated. She has agreed to run this program again in 2012. And thanks to the many individuals who came forward with financial donations so we could have extended boat inspections on the busy weekends.

In closing, thank you to those members who have joined Lake Detroiters Association. Please help us become a **stronger lake association** by visiting with your neighbors and friends that live on Detroit Lake and encourage them to become a member of LDA. All lake property owners have a vested interest in supporting the LDA mission statement. Please join us in **“welcoming aboard”** many new members in 2012-2013!

Let's have a great year on the lake!

Mike Metelak
Vice President



Mission: "To promote the protection and enhancement of Detroit Lake."

Lake Detroiters Association

Annual Meeting Minutes

Saturday, June 11, 2011

9:00 AM – Social

10:00 AM Meeting

Holiday Inn – Detroit Lake

Call to order - President Howard Hansen called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. The meeting was held at the Holiday Inn on Detroit Lake with 71 members present. The agenda was reviewed and approved.

Meeting Minutes - The 2010 Annual Meeting Minutes were approved as read.

Introductions - President Howard Hansen introduced Bruce Imholte, City Council and LDA Member. Bruce thanked the group for their efforts to support and pass the food and beverage tax – in the November 2010 election. A portion of the dollars collected to go toward the control of Aquatic Invasive Species. The retiring Board Members were recognized and thanked for their contribution the past 3 years. Retiring members include: Lyle Dahl, Carl Fingalson and Dick Hecock. (Dick has agreed to 3 more years on the board.)

Chamber Volunteer of the Year -Barb Halbakken-Fischburg was awarded the 2011 Chamber of Commerce Volunteer of the Year for her efforts on controlling Aquatic Invasive Species in our local lakes.

Treasurer's Report -Renee Alsop presented the financial report.

Budget Allocations – Aligned with Strategy:

- Lake Protection – 60%
- Programs and Education – 20%
- Membership – 20%

Dick Hecock Report

Dick emphasized the threat posed by Zebra Mussels and how important it was for all lake residents to become aware. Zebra Mussels can ruin a lake and there is no way to control them. They destroy game fish, leaving only carp and bullheads. Beaches become sharp from the broken shells. Dick also gave an update on Flowering Rush research activities – (as detailed in the Annual Report)

The AIS sign up form that was signed last year is still good this year. Any lake home owner that did not sign last year, should sign the form now.

Harvesters will be used to collect (not cut) Curly Leaf Pondweed before it reaches shore.

The city beach was treated aggressively 2-3 times for Flowering Rush. A chemical that kills everything was used.

Dick also brought copies of the 1950 LDA Bulletin and asked for volunteers interested in doing some work with Detroit Lake history. If interested, please contact Dick Hecock.

Legislative Update -Barb Halbakken-Fischburg gave an update of progress made in Legislature. In January 2011, Detroit Lakes hosted a Legislative Summit to address AIS concerns. This Legislative Summit was well attended with 9 Legislators and 250 people.

As a result of our efforts, Legislation carried the message and took action realizing the concern for all communities. Many of our communities depend on the lakes resources and AIS can have a huge economic impact.

Web Site - Mike Metelak gave an update on the new LDA web site. www.lda-dl.com

Beach Captains

The LDA Beach Captains were introduced. Several new volunteers signed up today. If interested in helping out with Beach Captain duties, please contact one of the board members.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Olson, Secretary

Welcome Back Snowbirds

Things have changed a lot this year. Last year we reported that we were in an extraordinarily wet period, following a relatively cold winter with a record-breaking snowfall.

This year we had a warm fall, almost no winter, and a very early spring. Daily high temperatures have greatly exceeded long-term averages, the lowest temperature all winter was minus 19, and we had only one day when the temperature failed to exceed zero (the average number is eight).

Winter snowfall amounted to only 16.5 inches, about half the next lowest snowfall total in the last twenty years.

And then there was the early ice-out on March 23rd; ice out has occurred earlier in the season only once before during 120 years of record – in 1910. In fact March ice-outs have only occurred three times before, in 1910, 1942, and 1945.

It stopped raining in the first week of August last summer, and the lack of moisture, combined with windy conditions, high temperatures, drove lake levels down across this part of Minnesota. You may have noticed an unusual expanse of beach around our lakes. In fact Detroit is about one vertical foot lower now than it was one year ago.

But is “the lake lower than it ever has been”, as some have asked? The short answer is no. In fact in the fall of 2003, it was nearly this low, and in most years during the late 1980’s and into the early 1990’s, it dropped to levels a few inches lower than it is now.

Reaching further back, (comparable records start in 1937), the lake was at least six inches lower than now in every year but one from 1937-1945. There were a couple of very low years in the 1960’s too.

So does anyone control lake levels? The answer is a little complicated. For more than 100 years the level of Detroit Lake has been maintained from three to four feet above natural levels by a succession of structures at the Muskrat Lake outlet into Lake Sallie. Originally the lock and dam system was built to facilitate navigation through the Pelican River.

Prior to about 1985, the Dunton lock/dam system was sometimes operated by the City of Detroit Lakes to change water levels. Also, at times in the past, Ditch 14 flows were sufficiently heavy (owing to city sewage treatment discharges), that in some dry years the Pelican River reversed itself and carried sewage back to Little Detroit. A low dam near the West Lake Drive bridge was built to avoid those situations, but it has since been removed. For at least 25 years, there has been no attempt to manipulate water levels in Detroit Lake.

The current control structure, known as Dunton Rapids, was completed in 2001 in order to facilitate fish migration. It was specifically engineered to replicate the flow control attributes of the dam and lock system that it replaced.

At present it is not possible to control flows through Dunton Rapids.

When will the water go back up? Probably not soon. Typically, lake levels peak in late spring, and gradually decline after that. Given relatively low upstream lake levels, pretty empty wetlands, and some depleted ground water, even average rainfall will not cause rapid rises in Detroit because of the upstream capacities to absorb precipitation and runoff. And later in the summer we enter the season when higher evaporation rates kick in (as much as an inch per week). We would have to see a return to unusual above-average precipitation to make a big difference this year.

Winter 2011/12 Shoreline Damage

Another of last winter's strange attributes was the considerable impact from ice-movements. Shoreline changes resulting from ice were especially noticeable on the south- and west-facing shores of Detroit, where large mounds of gravel, sand, and other debris were pushed up on the beach. There was some significant damage to trees, lawns, walkways and fences. Large rocks were pushed up along the retaining wall along the Highway 10 Overlook. The situation was not all bad - in some cases the ice brought many tons of desirable sand to replenish beaches that had been eroded by high water in recent years.

It is quite normal for beaches to be pushed shoreward as a result of the thickening and expanding ice during very cold periods, usually in January or early February. The low mounds or ice-ridges which parallel the shore in many places are evidence of this normal condition. However, this year's circumstances were different – the ice push occurred early in the season, with some melting in December, these wind-driven ice-masses, six to eight inches in thickness moved with great force towards the shores. In some places, and along most of the sandbar between Big and Little Detroit, there were great ice-piles, up to eight feet in height. This is a process sometimes referred to as “Ice-jacking”. The conditions also were temporarily accompanied, by areas of dangerously thin or even no ice, in some parts of the lakes.



Debris pushed up by the Big Detroit Overlook as a result of Ice-Jacking

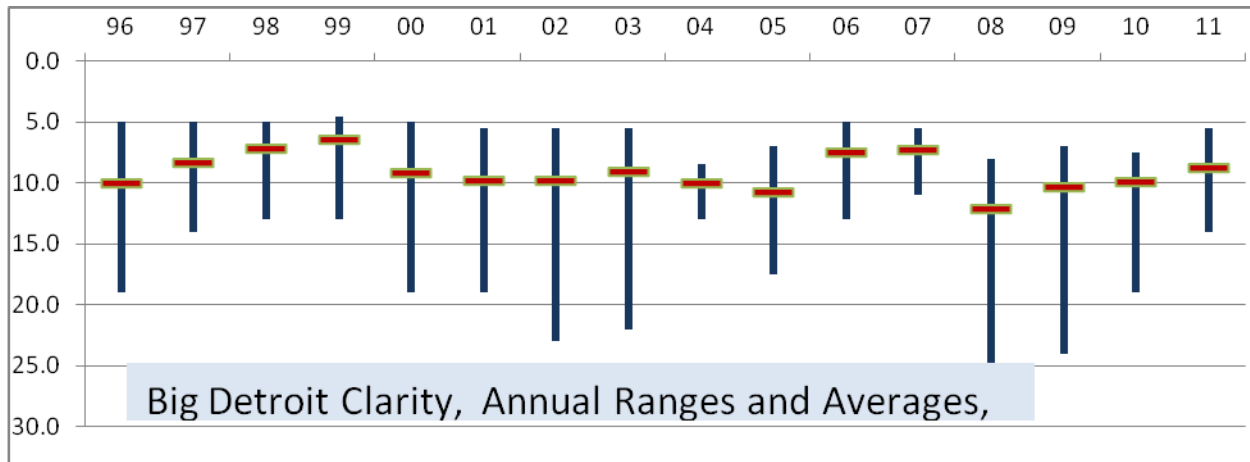
BEACH REPAIR

The general case is that homeowners need a Pelican River Watershed District permit to make alterations to the natural condition of the shore impact zone (37 feet from lake on Detroit, 50 feet from lake on Curfman). However, if the only result of the ice-action described above is a mound of sand that can be re-distributed by hand tools, no permit will be required. If mechanical equipment is used, or if beach debris includes pieces of cement, retaining walls, railroad ties, or stone, a permit will be required.

If there is any doubt, call 846-0436 for more specific information.

What is going on with Water Quality?

Like all lakes, Big and Little Detroit Lakes and Curfman (Deadshot) exhibit variable conditions from year to year. Displayed below are clarity readings for Big Detroit from 1996 through 2011. 2011 water quality suffered a bit on all of the lakes, including Deadshot Bay (Curfman) and Little Detroit. These conditions were primarily a response to the huge amount of spring runoff and subsequent spring and early summer precipitation. These conditions brought large amounts of sediment and nutrients into the lakes thereby depressing clarity, and increasing phosphorus and algae concentrations.



On the other hand, both Big and Little Detroit have seen modest improvements in water quality over the last fifteen years (there are not sufficient data on Curfman/Deadshot) to ascertain trends). Of particular interest is a reversal of the circumstances between Big and Little Detroit. Whereas in the past Big Detroit has had better water quality conditions than Little Detroit, with the installation of sanitary and storm sewers and other lake protection measures, Little Detroit's water quality now regularly exceeds that of Big Detroit.

The situation on Big Detroit continues to be greatly affected by sediment and nutrient inflows from the Pelican River which are filtered out before they reach Little Detroit.

As a result of PRWD has initiated the the Rice Lake Nutrient Reduction Project which is expected to reduce total phosphorus loading to downstream recreational water bodies especially to Big Detroit, by approximately 50%.

The Rice Lake wetland is located about three miles north of Big Detroit, and is known to be a primary source of nutrients carried to Big Detroit by the Pelican River.

The Rice Lake wetland will be increased from its current 434 acres to 896 acres, the amount prior to a 1918 ditch project.

The restoration will increase the depth and duration of inundation on the partially drained Rice Lake Wetland creating more natural wetland hydrology conditions. The project will increase the wetland depths by an average of two feet by the construction of two dam structures, some road improvements, and ditch modifications.

In addition to the water quality benefits, approximately 78 additional acres of prime wetland vegetation will be restored with a total of 462 acres of various types of wetlands created or enhanced. This wetland expansion will greatly enhance primary brooding and nesting habitat for several species of migratory waterfowl.

The project area involved acquisition of flowage rights from private lands (503 acres), MN DNR Wildlife Management area (510 acres), and City of Detroit Lakes land (145 acres).



Site Preparation - Herbicide Application
Herbicides were used to kill the existing turf grass to prepare the project site for native plantings.

DNR Restore-the-Shore City Beach Pavilion Restoration Project

Pelican River Watershed District, City of Detroit
Lakes, MN Department of Natural Resources



Site Preparation- Prescribed Burn
A prescribed burn removed the dead turf grass and prepared the soil for planting.



Planting
A seed mix containing native wildflowers and grasses were spread over the project site. Wildflower plugs and shrubs were concentrated in high visibility areas.



Funding for the project, totaling over \$16,000, was provided by the MN DNR Shoreline Habitat Program. The project includes several educational signs with plant species and shoreline restoration information, a walking trail, decorative split rail fencing at the project boundaries and trail entrances and five years of maintenance.

Source: PRWD 2011 Annual Report



Flowering Rush Research and Treatment Program

To develop more 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 new information will be used to assist a companion effort by the US Army Corps of Engineers to assess the efficacy of alternative herbicides, and to identify optimum treatment timings.

To understand the plant's biology, hundreds of plant samples and sediment cores were collected throughout the Flowering Rush growth cycle, and during its (relatively) dormant period in the winter. In addition, experimental facilities at the Corps of Engineers, including tank tests, and the growth chamber at the US Army Engineer Research and Development Center in Vicksburg, MS, were utilized to look at various herbicides, herbicide concentration rates, and treatment timing. The impacts of various herbicides on native plants were also assessed. Based upon this work, in-lake testing of two herbicides was conducted in 2011.

Costs of these research projects, were \$61,075 in 2010, and \$91,075 in 2011. Additional research is set for 2012. All costs have been borne by PRWD, the DNR and City of Detroit Lakes. The PRWD funding sources include assessments on shoreland properties and a tax levy on market values throughout the District.



Research team from Concordia College collecting samples in Deadshot Bay.



Researchers apply dye in Big Detroit in order to ascertain the dispersion rate of herbicides.

What have we learned?

Flowering Rush is known to interfere with recreational use of lakes, to adversely impact the lakes' ecology by threatening native plant populations, to interfere with normal wave action and lake circulation, and to impose economic hardships to landowners and businesses.

Flowering Rush is very hard to control because most of the plant's energy is stored in its root system where it is protected from herbicide damage..

One herbicide does seem to have significant impact on the emergent forms of Flowering Rush, especially when a large percentage of the plant is above water. Two contact herbicides have been shown promise to work effectively on submerged forms of Flowering Rush, but reaching the required level of herbicide for sufficient length of time is hard to achieve. Also the treatment must continue over a period of years in order to deplete plant energy resources.

There is no known biological control (the search is on), and there is growing evidence that hand-removal has little effect on mature stands. Indeed, mechanical removal of the plant, including with weed-roller type equipment, tends to spread the infestation.

Treatment and Research will continue

The District and the City of Detroit Lakes have been working closely with the DNR on a general plan to control Flowering Rush in the Detroit and Curfman (Deadshot), as well as Muskrat, Sallie, Melissa, and to prevent its spread to other nearby lakes. This plan involves various levels of treatment at different locations at different times. It involves variances from State rules governing the overall amount of treatment in shallow areas, and the requirement that signatures are required for District treatment activities.

The City of Detroit beach area will be treated aggressively again in 2012. It seems likely that there will be continued treatment of emergent Flowering Rush where more than 50 percent of the plant is above the water line. There will be some treatment of larger areas of submerged Flowering Rush, though agreement on the extent of treated areas has not yet been reached. 2012 Research will focus on treatment impacts on both FR and native species.

There also are tentative plans for chemical treatment of Curlyleafed Pondweed should the situation with that invasive species deteriorate. However, in 2012 the only measure contemplated will be a continuation of the use of District harvesting equipment to gather dead or dying mats of Curlyleafed Pondweed.

Caution

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

Roadside Pickup of Aquatic Plant Material

PRWD's collection of gathered up aquatic plant debris will continue as in previous years. Generally speaking this will be done early in each week from June through September. Pickup is limited to aquatic plants that have been placed next to, but off, the road on the owner's property.

Garden waste, branches, leaves, etc. will not be picked-up by the District, nor will any weed piles that include such items.

Private property owners also **MAY** engage in aquatic plant control

In addition to the special permit for removing Flowering Rush as described above, 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.

The DNR will continue to provide permits to property to hand-remove Flowering Rush along their property. The permits issued previously are valid for one more year.

Noteworthy Websites:

In addition to Lake Detroiters website, www.LDA.org.

- 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.

Pelican River Watershed District 2011 Watercraft Inspection Program



On April 29th 2011 PRWD was awarded a Local Government Grant to help support employment of paid inspectors for Detroit, Melissa, Sallie, and Long lakes. Volunteers and employees were recruited, equipped, and trained, and were deployed. Over the period from June 11 through September 11, a total of 3479 inspections were undertaken by a total of 40 different inspectors at 7 public accesses. These inspectors were on duty for a total of 1256 hours.

The DNR Watercraft Inspection Program's stated goal is to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS), especially zebra mussels and spiny waterfleas, into Minnesota waters. The program design aims to do this primarily through intercepting boaters entering or leaving lakes and acquainting them with proper techniques to ensure that AIS are not being transported from one lake to another. The District and the City of Detroit Lakes also saw this program as a means obtain data on boating usage of public accesses.

The District conceived this program as a partnership with lake associations. The District offered general supervision and program support, but responsibilities for inspector recruitment, selection, assignment and supervision were assigned to lake associations. It was intended that Lake Associations could also use volunteer inspectors to supplement the work of the paid inspectors.

Lake Association coordinators assembled their inspectors, instructed them in the program requirements, and deployed them in accordance with their own plan for optimizing inspector presence at access (es) on their lake. *In the case of Detroit, Becky DePree did yeoman's service.* Her duties included electronically reporting Inspector schedules to the DNR, and reporting inspector duty hours to PRWD. She also has helped identify problems that need to be corrected should the program continue next year.

An important component of this program was the requirement that all inspectors, paid and volunteer, attend an Inspector Training Program conducted by DNR Invasive Species Program staff.

Approximately \$4000 came from the DNR in support of this program, half of which was devoted to paying inspectors on Detroit. An additional \$4500 was provided by the City of Detroit Lakes, of which \$3500 went to the Detroit inspection program. Additional expenses were borne by private contributors through LDA, and PRWD in the form of both direct costs, and in-kind contributions.



Inspection of boat entering Big Detroit Lake

From the outset PRWD was anxious to gather data on use of public accesses in the participating lakes. Using the DNR's Inspection Survey as a starting point, the form was re-designed and a few additional questions were added.

As noted above almost 3500 inspections were conducted. These included about 2300 boats entering lakes, and 1200 leaving. Inspectors universally reported that their efforts were well-received by boaters. Overwhelmingly, boaters seem to be aware of AIS problems, and eager to ensure that they are not culpable in contributing to those problems. They endured inspections without complaint, and readily accepted AIS information that was handed to them.

Only two significant negative contacts were reported between Boaters and Inspectors during the course of the summer; neither of these resulted in a serious confrontation.

There were no observed instances of AIS being attached to boats or trailers entering these 5 lakes. There were 3 observations of attached AIS on equipment being removed from these lakes.

Generally speaking compliance with existing AIS transport laws seems high, though a total of 148 (.4%) either entered or left the access with bilge plugs installed.

As expected there is considerable variation among accesses in terms of the rates of launching or removing boats, the types of boats, and their origins.

In terms of AIS transport risk factors, the data showed that between two to three percent of entering boats had last been in a waterbody known to be infested by Eurasian Watermilfoil, or Zebra Mussels. Almost two-thirds of boats entering Detroit had last been in Detroit (the comparable figure was a little lower on other lakes). Almost half of entering boats had been out of the water for seven days or more.



Inspector interviewing boater, and giving tips

Lake Detroiters to again Participate in Volunteer Inspection Program

Under the direction of Becky DePree LDA will continue to participate in an inspection program in 2012. PRWD will provide funds 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.

Protecting our Lakes from Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).

Lake Detroiters are well-acquainted with AIS from their experience with Flowering Rush. Since the introduction of that plant in the 1970's there has been significant deterioration of the recreational experience to say nothing of a good deal of inconvenience and expense.

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.

And just as we have become used to trying to prevent the spread of Zebra Mussels, we have learned to worry about many other Aquatic Invasive Species which pose threats to our lakes. Spiny Water Fleas, Eurasian Watermilfoil, Quagga Mussels, Snakeheads, and many others can greatly damage our lakes.

Fortunately, the strategies used to reduce the probability of ZM spread, also work to reduce the threats of these other species. In other words, enforcement, education, inspection, and modifying citizen boating behaviors all play a role.



BOLD ACTION NOW – 2012 SUMMIT - A very large group of interested citizens, legislators and state and local officials met on January 14 at the Minnesota State Community and Technical College in Detroit Lakes. The Summit was organized by Becker County COLA, Pelican River Watershed District, and Lake Detroiters. Support was received by many COLA's from across the state, and many local businesses, sportsman groups, and local governments. Dr. Darby Nelson, author of "For Love of Lakes" and the event's keynote speaker set the tone by focusing on the many problems facing Minnesota lakes. He was joined by other experts and citizens who discussed various aspects of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). The Meeting culminated with comments by 15 legislators who reacted to the speakers, and offered various levels and directions of support for combating the AIS threat.

As the session ended the sponsors, including LDA issued a statement concerning State Government priorities for action if we are to successfully prevent further spread and damage by AIS. These priorities were advocated to the legislature and the DNR in greater detail and by several advocacy groups.

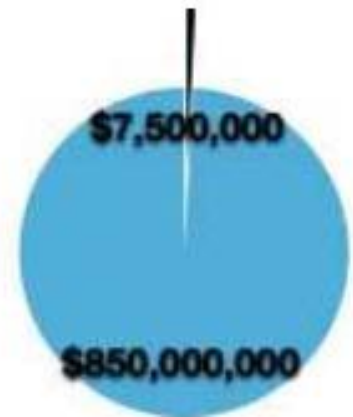
AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT 2012

BOLD ACTION NOW

2012 Aquatic Invasive Species Legislative Priorities

*Presented by Becker County Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA),
Pelican River Watershed District and Lake Detroiters Association*

**MN DNR's 2012 AIS Budget is Less
Than 1% of Total DNR Spending**



FUNDING: Create long-term dedicated funding sources for Aquatic Invasive Species, such as:

- Increase watercraft AIS surcharge (current level set in 1993)
- Add AIS surcharge to fishing licenses
- Implement paid AIS watercraft permit/decal increase
- Add fees for permitted events (fishing tournaments) to cover cost of AIS prevention
- Add AIS fees for other special events (boat racing, water ski competitions)
- Provide Legacy Amendment funds to fight AIS
- Provide Lottery revenue to fight AIS

SPENDING:

- Place AIS decontamination units on all zebra-mussel infested waters.
- Require decontamination or drying time of boats leaving AIS infested waters
- Develop broad-based AIS plant and animal management research programs
- Establish AIS Citizen Advisory Committee to assist in formulating DNR policy and funding decisions

STATE AUTHORITY: Increase watercraft inspection authority and ability to remove equipment from water if necessary to prevent or control spread of AIS.

DETERRENT: Increase AIS fines commensurate with other natural resource violations, including mandatory restitution and equipment confiscation.

LOCAL AUTHORITY: Delegate broad AIS authority to local units of government for watercraft inspection training, decontamination units, and enforcement citations, checkpoints, controlling accesses, removal of equipment.

PRIVATIZATION: Create private business opportunities for watercraft decontamination and watercraft inspection training

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



Zebra Mussels
Impact recreational
use of lakes



Zebra Mussels
attach to plants



Juvenile
Zebra Mussels
are small



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

- **Hire dock and boat lift installers that are DNR trained Lake Service Providers (LSP).** It's the law for anyone working for hire in Minnesota public waters. The business needs a permit - the worker needs DNR certification. (DNR website - search **LSP**)

Ask to see the DNR issued certificate of the LSP dock and lift worker. 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.** This includes fishing boats, jet skis, wakeboard boats, sailboats, scuba gear, float planes, canoes, kayaks, all fishing gear, waders, docks, boat lifts, moorings, and waterfowl hunting gear.

- **Learn to identify each aquatic invasive** (zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, spiny water fleas, etc). Establish a lake monitoring team for early detection of new AIS infestations which translates to quicker and more effective treatment options. Be aware of AIS not currently in MN but considered a threat such as hydrilla. (DNR website - search **aquatic invasive identification**)

- **Know where designated infested waters are** in Minnesota and other states. (DNR website - search **infested waters**)

- **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, Flowering Rush and others)

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

- **Encourage resorts/campsites/hotels to train marina employees** on AIS and to use precautionary measures when working with water-related equipment arriving from other lakes and rivers. All arriving watercraft and water-related equipment needs to be free of AIS and **Clean/Drain/Dry** before entering the water.

- **Organize a volunteer inspection program** for public accesses and contact the DNR for training. Be "**Eyes and Ears of the Lake**". (DNR website - search **watercraft inspection**)

- **Promote good AIS relationships** among your lake neighbors, the DNR AIS Specialist and law enforcement by including DNR and law enforcement as speakers during your lake association meeting. (DNR website - search **aquatic invasive species contacts**)

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

- **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**)

QUESTIONS: Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations MinnesotaCOLA@gmail.com
DNR - Ecological and Water Resources - 651-259-5100 www.dnr.state.mn.us
Local Sheriff or Conservation Officer



Produced and distributed by
Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations (MN COLA)
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As of 03.23.2012

The Minnesota DNR has added a new email distribution list to keep us up to date about AIS in Minnesota.

Use this link to subscribe:

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNDNR/subscriber/new?topic_id=MNDNR_87

BECKER COUNTY COLA DNR GRANT -Becker County COLA is fortunate again this year to receive a grant from the DNR to support our Aquatic Invasive Species awareness efforts. We received \$7,500 that will be used for five specific projects:

- (1) Create awareness materials for the general public
- (2) Develop an education program and materials for resorts
- (3) Provide materials to fishing tournament and special event organizers
- (4) COLA will also be creating our own portable educational booth
- (5) Developing a speaker's bureau to help educate organizations and schools about AIS.

Several other organizations, including LDA, the City of Detroit Lakes, Lodge on the Lake, PRWD and Lakes Chamber of Commerce have signed on as partners in this effort .

County Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force

LDA joined Becker COLA and PRWD leaders to encourage the Becker County Commissioners to establish a Task Force to study how local governments can prevent the further spread of Invasive Species in the county's lakes. Several presentations were made to Commissioners, and in November the Commissioner's did establish such a commission. Representatives of LDA, COLA, PRWD and City of DL were included as part of the task force charged with reviewing enforcement and inspection practices with the goal of enhancing existing programs. One outcome was the appointment of a County AIS Coordinator, Moriya Rufer who will oversee expanded AIS inspection and other education programs.

Another outcome at least partially attributable to the Task Force is enhanced enforcement. Over sixty peace officers in Becker County now have received special training to enforce new AIS regulations. With this number of officers, together with DNR Conservation Officers and Inspectors, Becker will have among the largest deployment of an AIS law enforcement effort in Minnesota.

Detroit Lake Fishery Status-2011, by Jim Wolters, DNR Section of Fisheries

Detroit, including Deadshot Bay (Curfman Lake), is a 3,067-acre, class-22 lake within the city limits of Detroit Lakes. The lake is mesotrophic, bordering on eutrophic, with an average trophic state index in the upper forties. This study, like most previous fish assessments, groups data from all three connected basins, Curfman Lake and Big and Little Detroit Lakes. Curfman Lake, a 116 acre bay, is separated from Big Detroit by an approximately 150 ft. wide, 20 ft. deep channel. Little Detroit, which covers approximately 1,000 acres and is 16 ft. deep at its maximum, is separated from Big Detroit by a long, shallow gravel bar with a dredged boat channel near its northeast end. The lake's primary inlet and outlet, the Pelican River, enters the north shore of Big Detroit and exits the southwest shore of Little Detroit. The Pelican River supports spawning runs for northern pike, walleye, and white sucker.

Following the upward shift in quality of the 2007 pike population, the northern pike sampled in 2011 reverted to characteristics more typical for Detroit Lake. This occurred despite a drop in pike numbers to 5.6 per gill net which was near the historic low. The mean length of sampled northern pike in 2011 was down from 21.1 inches to 18.8 inches. No special pike regulations are in effect on Detroit Lake but there are special northern pike regulations in effect on two downstream lakes (Sallie and Melissa). Fish immigration is now possible and seasonally observed from these lakes via the modified Dunton Locks structure on the Pelican River. Second, the introduction of muskellunge in Detroit Lake in 1989 and subsequent establishment of this population appeared to be impacting the numbers of small pike by predation. However, young pike are once again predominant in this population. Nearly 80% of sampled pike were age three or under in 2011. Between 1970 and 2003, test net catches of walleye in this lake remained very stable, ranging from 5.3 to 8.4 per set. Only in 1953, when the catch rate was 16.2 walleyes per net, were catches significantly higher than the historic mean. In 2007 however, gill net catches of walleye declined to the historic low of 3.7 per set, compared to Detroit's historic mean of 7.4 walleyes per set. The previous stability in walleye catch rates persisted despite several different stocking regimens, increasing fishing pressure, and sporadic naturally reproduced year classes. Four years later, walleye catch rates are once again near the historic mean at 6.9 per gill net. In 2011, walleye lengths ranged from 9.9 to 27.8 inches with a mean of 15.2 inches. The 2008 year class was most abundant in the 2011 sample though nine different year classes were represented in the catch. Walleyes have been stocked annually since 2005.

No muskies were sampled in gill or trap nets, but two young-of-the-year fish were seined during IBI sampling. These were naturally reproduced muskies. Another naturally reproduced muskie was captured during spring netting with large-frame trap nets. This was the first year in which natural reproduction was documented since muskie stocking began in 1989. Spring netting targeting muskies with large frame trap nets was conducted in 2011 and data shows that the muskie population is very well established in Detroit. The catch rate (1.18 muskies per set) was the highest of all spring studies. These fish averaged 24.4 pounds and 45.7 inches. Lengths of spring trap net sampled muskies ranged from 20.6 to 53.6 inches. Mid-summer gill net catch rates for yellow perch have consistently been low compared to the average for class 22 lakes. Detroit Lake's historic mean is 5.7 yellow perch per set. In 2011 however, the mean yellow perch catch rate continued its recent increase to the new historic high of 23.7 per gill net set. Perch averaged 7.1 inches in length and several over nine inches were found.

Trap net catches of bluegill declined slightly to 26.6 fish per set. The lake's historic mean is 52.6 bluegills per trap net. Bluegill lengths ranged from 3.0 to 9.3 inches with a mean of 5.8 inches. The sharp cutoff of fish over age five indicates heavy angling harvest.

Trap net catches of largemouth bass and black crappie were very similar to catch rates in 2007. This was the first year in which spring electrofishing targeting largemouth bass and black crappie was conducted. Electrofishing was far more effective for sampling crappies than either net type. Electrofisher sampled crappies averaged 9.7 inches with a range of 7.0 to 12.0 inches.

Several other fish species were found in the diverse and productive fish community in Detroit Lake. Most were found at catch rates considered normal or below compared to indicator net rates for class 22 lakes. These species included all three species of bullhead, pumpkinseed and hybrid sunfish, rock bass, white sucker, and lake sturgeon. Lake sturgeon were initially reintroduced in Detroit in 1997 and a regular stocking regimen continues. They have now been sampled in mid-summer test nets and during fall electrofishing. In addition, at least one angler has reported catching and releasing a lake sturgeon in Detroit Lake in recent years. In the spring of 2009, a dead lake sturgeon of approximately 40" washed up on the southeast shoreline of the lake. One species that was conspicuous by its absence was tullibee (cisco) which was formerly a significant part of the fish community in this lake as recently as 1994. None were sampled during the past two assessments. Dissolved oxygen and temperature profiles in summer 2007 were not favorable for this species and it remains to be seen whether water quality can be improved enough to once again sustain cisco in Detroit Lake or whether they are still present in the lake.

LDA Beach Captains

Lake Detroiters has adopted the Beach Captain approach in order to facilitate interaction and communication among lakeshore residents and their LDA officers and board members. This approach enables a face-to-face contact between representatives of LDA and residents.

Numerous volunteers have been willing to serve as Beach Captains.

Numerous volunteers have been willing to serve as Beach Captains.

Park Beach – Sue Hesby
North Shore Beach – Bob, Maxine Nelson, Dick Hecock, Dennis Fuhrman
Overlook Beach – Kim Green
Pokegama Beach –
Ox Cart Beach – Karen Hagen, Cheri Bergren
East Shore – Judie Cherry, Carl Fingalson
Burritt Beach – John Emery, Maureen Karsnia, Nancy Henke
Sucker Creek Beach – Mike Chadinha, Mona Streyle
South Shore Beach – Ginny Imholte, Patty Corwin
Nason Bay Beach – Mary Green
Deadshot Beach North – Colin Gedrose
Deadshot Beach South – Cookie Friesen
White Clover Beach – Jack Chivers
Cox's Point/Wildwood – Curtis Jundt, John Cox
City View Beach – Carol Bergren, Julie Raphael
Nodaway Beach – Ruth Also
Sunset – Laurie Olson and Mike Metelak
West Lake City Beach – Dick Alsop
West Lake Legion Beach – Jim Langemo
Pelican Outlet Beach – Brad and Deb Wimmer
City Beach – Lyle Dahl





Becker County Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA) 2010 - 2011 Activities & Accomplishments

Water Quality

- 💡 Developed a model shoreline septic inspection program for lake associations.
- 💡 Helped develop, distribute and reprint popular Shoreland Property Owners Guide.
- 💡 Promoted lake-specific water-quality diagnoses and monitoring.
- 💡 Hosted a water-quality monitoring workshop for lake associations.
- 💡 Partnered with Becker County Soil & Water and RMB Environmental Laboratories to secure grant for The Next Step Project for lake-specific monitoring plans for 20 COLA lakes.
- 💡 Funded two-thirds of monitoring costs for COLA lakes not included in The Next Step.
- 💡 Set monitoring standard for COLA lakes.



Secchi Disk

Education

- 💡 Distributed newsletter and press releases on current issues and topics.
- 💡 Participated in countless television and print journalism news interviews and film clips locally, regionally, including Minnesota Public Radio, StarTribune and Pioneer Press.
- 💡 Executed fishing opener media campaign focused on educating anglers about AIS.
- 💡 Converted to electronic communications with members and friends on topics related to COLA developments, meetings and events, and other news.
- 💡 Upgraded COLA website (beckercola.org) to be a one-stop resource for the public.
- 💡 Hosted Festival of Lakes with 100+ attendees, media and DNR demonstrating portable decontamination unit.
- 💡 Adopted COLA policies and positions statement.



- 💡 *Developed a Facebook page for timely updates on COLA topics of interest. Friend us please! Just look for Becker County Coalition of Lake Associations.*

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)



Zebra Mussel

- 💡 Hosted first-ever 2011 Aquatic Invasive Species Legislative Summit on AIS for purpose of educating legislators; 250 attended including most Becker County legislators, the DNR, city, county and others. Partnered with Lake Detroiters Association and Pelican River Watershed District.
- 💡 Assisted Pelican River Watershed District in successful passage of legislation broadening definition of AIS, implementing new prevention laws and altering fee structure.
- 💡 Collaborated with Becker County to establish AIS Task Force.

- ☪ Helped organize AIS training sessions for Lake Service Providers.
- ☪ Initiated discussion with DNR about allocating Fisheries funds to AIS education and enforcement.
- ☪ Engaged Becker County in design of AIS brochure distributed with 2011 property tax statements.
- ☪ Developed AIS Checklist recapping all current laws. Distributed to bait shops, retailers, resorts, marinas and lake associations and used in 2011 watercraft inspection program.
- ☪ Obtained DNR grant to develop an AIS brochure and place brochure dispensers at public access points and retail locations throughout the county.
- ☪ Received DNR grant for AIS signage at all Becker County-owned public access sites.
- ☪ Established volunteer watercraft inspection program at member lakes.



Planning & Zoning

- ☪ Played a leadership role in ongoing deliberations and approval of county zoning ordinance revisions, especially in regulations governing shore impact zones, mitigation and resort conversions.
- ☪ Advocated for improved shoreland septic system inspection and certification programs recently enacted county-wide.
- ☪ Advocated the adoption of mitigation requirements for City of Detroit Lakes variances.

Advocacy

- ☪ Co-founded Minnesota COLA Collaborative 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. COLA Collaborative currently represents 16 COLAs across Minnesota and 30,000 riparian property owners.
- ☪ Prepared statements concerning deficiencies in the county's proposed Recreation Plan and Ordinances and provided testimony that has been incorporated into both plan and future ordinance.
- ☪ Joined with Detroit Lakes Area League of Women Voters to host a Becker County Commission Candidates Forum to learn candidate views on issues of importance to COLA members before 2010 election.
- ☪ Sent delegates and speakers to Minnesota Waters annual meeting to meet with other lake associations, COLAs, legislators, DNR staff and key state officials.
- ☪ Regularly sent observers to Becker County Commission and Becker County Recreation Advisory Committee meetings.
- ☪ Joined Minnesota Seasonal and Recreational Property Owners Coalition (MSPRO), a group that advocates for interests of riparian property owners, especially on AIS.

About Becker County COLA



The Becker County Coalition of Lake Associations represents 3,000 property owners on 34 lakes throughout Becker County. Its purpose is to facilitate cooperation among member lake associations to protect and enhance the quality of lakes and their shorelines for future generations. Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month between April and October.

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

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 preserve 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.

LDA History, Anyone?

On the Lake Detroiters' Website, you now can find a wealth of resources concerning the organization's history. The 2006 Directory which contains historic pictures as well as numerous anecdotes describe the "olden days". Also, newsletters (bulletins) from the 1950's and 1960's show that many of the problems we currently face are not so different from the ones concerning lake residents then.

If anyone has old LDA materials or documents, we would be very pleased to have them and add them to our website for all to see.





2009 Digital Photo