

# Bad Medicine Lake

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE BAD MEDICINE LAKE AREA

Fall 2012

## ANNUAL MEETING

June 22, 2013

9:00 -11:00 AM

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Have a  
Wonderful  
Winter!!

### From the President

We can look back on the summer of 2012, and be thankful for beautiful weather, a remarkably warm summer, and a lake that is receding from high water. Not much has changed from the report of David Wiest and the June letter, but things are changing with Minnesota lakes. There are several items that are common to all lakes, and you can start with AIS (aquatic invasive species) and septic systems.

In August I attended the COLA meeting where nearly 100 members expressed their feeling about the zebra mussel threat. The current list from the DNR says that there are 69 lakes in Minnesota with a Zebra mussel problem, and Becker County has one. Buck Lake along highway 71 is on the list. Some other bodies of water infected are Pelican Lake, Fish, Lizzie, the Mississippi River (Crow Wing to Iowa border), Ottertail River, and Rose Lake.

Many of you are aware that Paul Lundquist and Steve Lindow are leaders in the AIS program for the BMLAA. You can be a volunteer at the public landing to make sure that boats entering our lake are safe and inspected. We need volunteers to sign up, and show up, as education and inspection work. The boat landing volunteers are needed on weekends from May-September from 7:00 -10:00 AM. This year approximately 20% of the boats entering the lake have some area of violation.

This year we had one boat owner fined by the DNR for entering the lake, and it occurred because the owner had water in the boat, the drain plug in, and a trailer with weeds. This incident became a state wide event because of a comment by Ron Schara in *Outdoor News*. Schara, a noted outdoorsmen was there at the public landing, and really did little to support the AIS volunteer. His comment later in the news magazine was "So far, the 'my lake' attitude has been the biggest thorn in the invasive species issue". He missed the issue and chose to comment about the terminology of "my lake", and "our lake" used that morning.

John Postovit gave us an updated report on Becker Counties shore land sewage treatment compliance program. Bad Medicine is a pristine lake and we are a high priority lake. The 2012 program requires inspection and re-certification of 110 septic systems. In April 2012, any property on the lake with a septic system older than 10 years will receive a letter from the county requiring a septic inspection. You have until September 30, 2012 to update a Certificate of Compliance, or get on file a Certificate of Non-compliance. If it isn't compliant you have until September 2013 to have it corrected. It is possible to get a 3% loan with a five year term from Becker Soil and Water Conservation District.

Your BMLAA board members will be assisting the BML Foundation on the acquisition of two parcels of land; one is with Conservation Partners Legacy, the other is with Legacy Funds. There is an urgent need to set aside shallow areas around the lake to preserve lake quality.

Our goal as an association is to educate, inform, and build community in a positive manner. The board has three new members: Mary Follett, Jim Eisele, and Andy Skatvold. We meet the third Saturday of the month at 8:00 AM at Forest Township Hall. May all of you enjoy the remaining days of summer and the beginning of fall as you spend time around Bad Medicine Lake.

Thomas Lundquist, BMLAA President

The mission of the newsletter is to provide lake area residents with information to build community. The newsletter is intended to present current lake issues in a non-controversial and positive format.

# North Country Trail Report

Ray Vlasak

I am preparing this article from Augusta, MI, where I am attending the North Country Trail Association Annual Conference. It is always interesting to hike the NCT in other areas to compare the trail with ours. This morning we hiked thru a blow-down area not much different from what we experienced this year and last in Itasca State Park. The NCTA conference alternates between the seven states it passes through. Vermont will soon become the 8<sup>th</sup> state as plans are underway to connect the NCT with the Green Mountain Trail which connects with the Appalachian Trail.

Between hikes this spring and summer the chapter has been busy clearing new trail in advance of MCC crews constructing treadway. In addition to the regular Wednesday workdays, Monday workdays have been added to the schedule.

Currently clearing work is in the Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge. The MCC will begin treadway construction in Tamarac within a week or so, and boardwalk construction will begin toward the end of the month. More volunteer workers are always welcome for these projects. We always try to have fun even when the work is strenuous.

The following hikes and activities are scheduled for the balance of the year:

- September 22 Guided Fall Color Hike 1:00 pm, Elbow Lake Trailhead
- October 6 Autumn Hike at Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge (details later)
- October 20 End of season celebration and joint meeting with Itasca Morain Chapter (Details later)

## FALL FISHING REPORT

Steve Lindow

With the warming water, walleye

fishing has tapered off and moved to deep water. There seems to be a lot of bait fish them to eat, so catching has been reduce further to just being lucky to be fishing wh they feed for short periods of time. Most walleyes are about 18 inches with very fe smaller ones being caught. With fewer younger fish present it makes for tough fis over the next 2-3 years. The DNR Lake Survey conducted in late June confirms these catch rates. The DNR walleye net catch rate fell from 21 six years ago to 3.8 this year. The stocking rate has been adequate but for some reason the fingerlings have not been surviving. Possible reasons could be a lack of food (perch and crayfish) due to larger numbers of smallmouth bass competing for the food. Young fingerling walleyes also eat daphnia (zooplankton) which are mainly responsible for eating algae to keep our water clear. Trout eat daphnia almost exclusively in large numbers which could limit daphnia availability to walleye fingerlings. Bad Medicine is due to get 580 pounds (about 11,000) walleye fingerlings again this fall.

Trout fishing has been similar to other years. Warmer than normal water temperatures this year has driven the trout to 35-45 feet so fishing has been better deeper. A meeting with the DNR to further discuss a winter trout fishing season is being planned. It will not be this year and may not ever happen. This fall 4,000 trout will be stocked followed by 12,000 next spring. Trout season closes this fall on October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Good Smallmouth bass fishing started the summer shallow but has also moved into deeper water. Smaller bass can still be caught shallow but larger bass are deeper now. Keep the smaller bass to eat and release the larger fish to reproduce. Smallmouth bass season closes September 10<sup>th</sup>. Any bass caught after that date must be released.

Northern pike numbers continue to be low. There seems to be a few more pike in the 18 inch range so maybe these will be eaters in a couple of years. Northerns need weeds to reproduce successfully. With a lot fewer crayfish present, due to the bass eating them, there has been a definite increase in the amount of vegetation in the bays and even the main lake shoreline. Please make every effort to maintain this new vegetation in front of your lots. More vegetation also means more sunfish, which is always fun for the little fisher



...and myself, we would like to thank all of the volunteers that took turns inspecting boats at the public access. With their help, a number of boats were stopped with plugs in place, water in the boat, and vegetation on the trailers. Most people were very cooperative in correcting their forgetfulness. A conservation officer was called on one boat that refused to cooperate. The boat operator got a ticket for violating the plug removal law.

Donna Doslan and Red Lundgren get credit for finding the first invasive plant species on the lake. They found one purple loose strife plant growing in some cattails at the edge of the access. It does not grow in the water, only along the wet shoreline. The plant was dug out by the roots and destroyed. We will watch this area closely in the future.

Next spring, the DNR will be doing more volunteer training, so we encourage more people to sign up. To effectively protect our lake from invasive species and maintain property values, more volunteers are needed to share in the monitoring process.

**(continued on next page)**

Join our facebook group!!

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/466669103358957/>



## AIS UPDATE

*Paul Lundquist*

Thank you for the many volunteers that gave up a Saturday or Sunday morning. We spent time at the boat access talking with the many visitors informing them of AIS and asking each of them to continue to follow the rules so that we can keep out Aquatic Invasive Species from this precious lake. Our effort's are worth it. We were able to tell numerous boaters to remove weeds from their boats and trailers and also to tell them to drain their boat of water before entering the lake. Next summer season we will continue our efforts to stop the spread of AIS in this lake. We will again need volunteers. Please consider to be one. This lake of ours needs each of us to be actively involved in it's protection. Please call or Email me.

Paul Lundquist  
218-573-3943  
[plundquist68@gmail.com](mailto:plundquist68@gmail.com)

## WATER QUALITY REPORT

*STEVE LINDOW*

*JIM EISELE*

The last thorough water quality testing happened in 2008. Maintaining the high quality and clarity of our water is what gives our lake its unique value. Numbers of people have commented on what seems to be more algae growing on the rocks and algae showing up on jigs and fish line while trolling. To head off any negative changes in water quality, a meeting is being set up with the DNR and the MPCA to conduct another set of water tests over the next 2-3 summers.

Beginning in May 2013, the BMLAA will contract with a local laboratory to measure chlorophyll-a and total phosphorus in the lake for a 5 month period. This data will be used to compare with the same tests run in 2008.

Chlorophyll-a is tested in lakes to determine how much algae is in the lake. Phosphorus has a direct effect on plant and algal growth in lakes – the more phosphorus is available, the more plants and algae there are in the lake. Phosphorus originates from a variety of sources including human and animal wastes, soil erosion, detergents, septic systems and runoff from farmland or fertilized lawns.

The secchi disk readings this summer ranged from 31.5 feet this spring to about 18 feet in late July and early August. As of August 17<sup>th</sup> the reading was 20 feet. The water temperature reached a warm 81 degrees and is currently 74 degrees. The water level is down about 3 inches from ice out which is down about 5 inches from the summer peak.

Residents are reminded to do everything possible to prevent water run-off from eroding soil into the lake and to never add fertilizer to your lawns, which is one of the biggest contributors to poor water quality. Maintaining a 20-foot wide patch of plants and trees along the shoreline is the best way to stop the soil erosion and water run-off. The trees help hide your home from view and makes the shoreline look aesthetically natural. One pound of fertilizer makes over 500 pounds of algae. Please be diligent in protecting your lake and property value!!!

[n.com](http://n.com), is not easy to update, and, consequently, it has little information that is relevant. In order to have a website that is useful and relevant, we will be changing to a new host organization later this fall. This new host system will allow us to easily make timely updates and additions. In the meantime, the website will be temporarily shutdown while we make the changeover. Watch for information late this year announcing the new site.

## Important Dates for Winter/Spring 2012-2013

October 6 - Autumn Hike @Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge

October 20th - End of Season Celebration with Itasca Morain Chapter

September 30th - Due Date to have Updated Certificate of Compliance for septic systems

June 22 - Annual Meeting

October 16th - Book Club Meeting @Roger Geddes

November & January meeting - TBD

# BMLAA Membership Report

*Jim Luttrell, BMLAA Treasurer*

When I first became a lake property owner on Bad Medicine in the winter of 1998 I had no idea where to get lake related information. I knew very few people on the lake and I had questions that I needed answers to. Where do I take my garbage? When do I take it? Are there lake rules or norms I should follow? What kind of fish are in the lake? The list went on and on. As a "newbie" I had to dig out whatever information I wanted from my neighbors and friends as those relationships developed. Then I attended a Bad Medicine Lake Area Association annual meeting and found it to be an invaluable source of information, a place where lake issues were discussed and dealt with, and where new friendships developed. I have continued my membership and stayed involved ever since.

The BMLAA Board has worked very hard in the past years to continually keep members and lake property owners informed about issues and general information related to lake life. Through the BMLAA Newsletter, appropriate and useful information has been disseminated to everyone on the lake regardless of membership in the association. We think this has been one of the main ingredients to our success in attracting new members. Here is some history that I think proves this. Though I don't have exact numbers at my fingertips for 2005 and 2006, in those years the number of members ranged in the 40's to 50's. In 2007 the first newsletters were sent out and the number of members increased to 108. In 2008 there were 150, in 2009 we had 160, in 2010 we had 185, and in 2011 we peaked at 187 members. This year we experienced our first drop in membership to 170. While there are other factors that may have affected the increases over the years, I believe the information provided in the newsletter had a dramatic impact on

membership. Rose Andersen was the editor of the newsletter. Rose has now retired from that role but a new rising star has volunteered to try his hand at putting out future newsletters. Ryan Sederquist of Moorhead, MN, a Concordia College student and member, recently put out his first newsletter and I think it went quite well. It's a lot of work, especially when you are trying to juggle studies and finals with getting out the newsletter. So I want to thank Ryan for having the courage to take this on.

Now I would ask those of you who are not members to do your part by becoming members. The larger the membership we have in our association, the stronger our voice becomes when we deal with state agencies like the DNR or our legislators. The new threat of Aquatic Invasive Species needs our attention and resources to keep it at bay. All of us have a significant financial stake in this fight and in other issues involving the lake. Even if you do not participate personally, please pledge your financial support through your dues payment of only \$15 per person. It's not that much money and the membership numbers really do count.

The BMLAA is your association. The next annual meeting is June 22, 2013. The board meets every third Saturday at the Forest Township Hall at about 8:30 AM from April through September; you are always welcome to attend a board meeting to find out what really goes on. It is the place to come and discuss & hopefully solve issues affecting us all.

I urge you to become involved and become a member.

Reminder: A new directory will be coming out in the spring of 2013. If your data is not updated it will be printed as it was last time. Contact me if you have changes. My e-mail is [jalut@arvig.net](mailto:jalut@arvig.net) and my phone number is 573-3411.

The Bad Medicine Lake Book Club met at Ed and Bonnie Strohmeier's on Sept. 18th. Bonnie discussed the book "Cutting for Stone" by Abraham Verghese.

On Oct. 16th we will meet in Park Rapids at Roger Geddes. His address is 601 N. Main. Gloria Church will lead the discussion on the book "SALT" by Mark Kurlansky. *Sue Sanger*

In Nov. we will meet at Lynn Lindow's and David Hagen will lead the discussion. Book to be announced at our Sept. meeting. We don't meet in Dec., but will be at it again in Jan. for those that are still here at the lake. Book Club is open to anyone that loves to read and would like to join. If you are interested contact Sue Sanger at 573-3793 or e-mail her at [sang@arvig.net](mailto:sang@arvig.net).

## DID YOU KNOW???

<http://www.wunderground.com/wetherstation/WXDailyHistory.asp?ID=KMNPONSF2>

Follow this link to access data uploaded by John Sanger from his Davis weather system

-The end of October is the last day to submit photos for the directory contest! - Contact Jim Luttrell for more information

-You can submit an article to the newsletter! - Contact Ryan Sederquist

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As we head into fall and the leaves begin to turn colors and float down to the ground, can't help but get in a nostalgic mood. It is something about the state that you can't remember and cherish the times gone by. For my family, the quintessential fall event/activity is cross country, and as the temperatures drop into the long sleeve range, few things can beat running down a shaded gravel road or bike trail. When fall comes, I think of running - I think of the teammates I've had, the community and bond that we have shared. I think of the rainy day runs and the cloudy, cold meets. The thought of a long run can stir up many dreams and imaginations, from love and romance to the past and the future.

I was heading out the door for a 14 mile run just a week ago from my house off of the campus of Concordia College, and that came to my mind was how much enjoyable a run of this exact distance a week prior, largely because of the place at: Bad Medicine Lake. The route to me by my older brother, Tom, consisting of County Road 129, S Road, Moulton Forest Road, and To our family, it is well known and called "Saukeye." "I'm heading out of us boys may yell.

"Where?" is the normal response (a couple of years ago it may have been "me!" but at 52 and 50 years old, realizing that they might not be able to with their three college runner boys.

"I'm thinking maybe Saukeye." You know of doing the route because it has a high point and on a hot day, a four-wheeler mission may be necessary.

Last week I did the whole Saukeye loop. Over the rolling hills, I heard the sound of the breeze rustling leaves and trees, and the color of the sun just shining through to light the way. The song of the birds singing was like a gentle soundtrack that wished to remind me that this thing I call summer was fading away. As I ran down the road, I got this feeling that is hard to describe. Maybe you have felt it as you sit on your back porch on a late summer evening, or on the dock early in the morning. As you look out at the yard or the lake, it's as if you can see yourself, your children, your grandchildren, your friends, laughing and giggling and enjoying themselves like they once did in a past memory. You can see that time that they first got up on skis. You can see that time where they caught a huge northern or smallmouth bass. You can see that time when you had to untangle the huge mess of line from an errant cast (ok, maybe that only happened to me!). You can see these memories and you can almost feel them,

# Reflections into Fall

too. This is the affliction that lake has on us. It is an ocean of enjoyment, and as we dive into new memories, the memories that we have had in the past. When you go over the spot where they sank, you can still see them if you swim deep enough.

Perhaps the most special part about Bad Medicine Lake, however, is that it is so much more than a lake. In fact, I have found, as I so often realize on runs around the area, that it is all the stuff that lies behind the evergreen shell that makes this place really magical.

It is the hikes or four-wheeler rides through the endless miles of trails and roads. It is the sound of the congregation at the Chapel of the Good Creation. It is the silence of the blueberry or raspberry patch, or the taste of ice cream after a

'amen' is sung at Tschudi's resort on Labor Day Sunday, the feeling of summer gives way to the reflections of fall. As September turns to October, which will, before you know it, become November, encourage you to be thankful for the wonderful gift that we have been given in our beautiful lake. Don't take a moment for granted. If you are lucky enough to enjoy the winter wonderland at Bad Medicine, live it up! If you are stuck back in the "real world" for the next nine months, I suggest you go out for a run and let the sounds of God's creation bring you back to that "Saukeye road," reminding you that summer is not far off, and soon we will all be packing up the car for a weekend up north at the lake.

Have a wonderful winter and spring:)



random blueberry patches, the silence of worry as we thought we may have stumbled upon a black bear, the sight of a stoic single yellow lady slipper - these are senses that I will remember for a long time from going on that trek.

Many different friends and cousins have seen the big tree today, and although most have climbed all the way up, my fear of heights has limited me to only about a 40 foot maximum height. One time I helped my brother measure the height of the tree with a rope. Through our rough calculations, we decided that the tree was just over 100 feet tall, certainly comparable to the largest white pine in Minnesota, as advertised in Itasca State Park.

But this tree is much more unique than that one. It is special. When I look at it, I can see all my lake memories. For those of us who don't live on the lake year round, we may hold on a little tighter to those special summer moments. Whenever the docks have to come in, or the last

## Bad Medicine Lake Association Board Members

Board Members	Officers	Phone	Term	Email
Tom Lorentzsen	President	218-573-3394	6/10-6/13	<a href="mailto:t4eyes@cablone.net">t4eyes@cablone.net</a>
Steve Lindow	Vice President	612-581-4137	6/11-6/14	<a href="mailto:steve.lindow@yahoo.com">steve.lindow@yahoo.com</a>
Mary Follett	Secretary		6/12-6/15	
Jim Luttrell	Treasurer	218-573-3411	6/10-6/13	<a href="mailto:jalut@arvig.net">jalut@arvig.net</a>
Dennis Anderson		218-573-2502	6/10-6/13	<a href="mailto:op79@arvig.net">op79@arvig.net</a>
James Eisele			6/12-6/15	

<http://www.badmedicinelakeareaassociation.com/>

**Why should I become a member of the BMLAA?** The answer is simple: to be involved and have a voice in matters concerning Bad Medicine Lake and the surrounding area. Here are a few other reasons as well: to pay your share of what you receive such as the newsletter, the directory, invasive species matching grants, water testing and monitoring, COLA membership and newsletter, the North Country Trail, the website, periodic mailings concerning lake information and responsibilities, etc. Please become a member and become active in our Bad Medicine Lake Area Association.

Bad Medicine Lake Area Association  
 Jim Luttrell, 39124 Horseshoe Road  
 Ponsford, MN 56575

