

Bad Medicine Lake

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE BAD MEDICINE LAKE AREA

Fall 2013

ANNUAL MEETING

June 21, 2014

9:00 -11:00 AM

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**Have a wonderful
winter! See you
next summer!**

From the President

*Dear Bad Medicine Lake Residents and Friends,
Greetings!*

Although it started a little late, it has been another great summer at Bad Medicine. The water remains clear and clean; the water warmed up to about 78° so swimming was comfortable, trout fishing was good, two successful pontoon socials were held, and, as far as we can tell, there are no invasive plants or animals in the lake.

A major focus for the BMLAA this summer has been invasive species education and monitoring. Using money you donated for AIS work and working with the county, Steve Lindow was able to have a paid person monitor boats entering and leaving the lake for about 20 hours each weekend. See the AIS report in this issue for more details.

In addition to continuing efforts at AIS prevention, in the coming year we expect to put an emphasis on education to prevent shore land degradation and on shore land restoration where it has already been damaged. We want to insure that the Bad Medicine water quality remains excellent for the future.

We encourage you to continue your BMLAA membership when you receive a dues notice early next year, and we also encourage you to donate to the AIS fund at the same time so the AIS monitoring can be continued next year. If you aren't yet a member, please consider joining. You can download a membership form at the BMLAA website: www.badmedicinelake.org.

Finally, the BMLAA's objective is to preserve the beauty and improve life at the lake. If you have suggestions or concerns about lake issues, please contact a BMLAA board member. Their contact information is shown later in this newsletter. Also, plan to attend the BMLAA annual meeting on June 21, 2014 at 9:00 AM.

**Jim Eisele, President
Bad Medicine Lake Area Association**

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.



Water Quality Report

Jim Eisele

The water clarity this summer has been consistent with previous years. After a high of 41 feet in May, the Secchi disc reading declined to a low of 17 feet on August 15. However, by August 30, it had increased to 20 feet. Water sampling also continued through the summer with phosphorus and chlorophyll levels similar to previous years. The bottom line is that we see no significant changes from prior years.

However, the Bad Medicine Lake Area Association and the Bad Medicine Lake Area Foundation are concerned that shoreline degradation could lead to a decline in water quality. When the natural vegetation is removed within 25-30 feet of the shore and replaced with grass, rocks, or sand, it leads to additional runoff which adds phosphorus to the lake resulting in increased algae. Working together both groups have begun discussions on how we can help prevent further degradation and how we can encourage shoreline restoration in areas where the natural vegetation has been removed.

Foundation Update

Ray Vlasak

Greetings,

Some of you have been asking about the status of the Aquatic Management Area projects initiated in 2012.

Both the Gigstead A.M.A. and the Nyquist/Swanson A.M.A. are nearing completion. Contractual Options to Purchase are in place and transfer of both to the state should take place before the end of the year.

The local cash match required for these two projects is about \$125,000. The appraised value of the two parcels is over \$750,000, and current property owners are contributing some of the land value for both projects.

These projects always take longer than anticipated. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is very thorough in evaluating the properties they purchase. The procedures are defined in statute and the D.N.R. has established processes to assure compliance. These processes are bureaucratic and are completed in series. Each step needs to be satisfied before the next is begun.



Zoll Watnemo, 21, of Moorhead, Minnesota, shows how to properly handle the northern pike that he caught while fishing on Bad Medicine Lake earlier this summer.

In the case of the Gigstead property, multiple problems resulted in delays. Fortunately none were insurmountable, but they did add many months to the grant purchase process.

The A.M.A.'s will have very little impact on county and local tax revenues as there are state contributions under Payment in Lieu of Taxes legislation (PILT) to replace those revenues. The PILT payment is 0.75% of appraised value. This rate is approximately equivalent to what residents pay in property taxes.

The amount of money left to be raised for both projects is about \$40,000. If you have not already made a contribution or want to add to your contribution, please contact Ray Vlasak for a pledge form. If all goes as planned, pledges will need to be filled in November.

Contact any BMLAF board member with questions.

John Backes	573-3626
Chuck Church	573-2209
Tim Holzkamm	573-3442
Jim Luttrell	573-3411
Roger Olsen	
573-3081	218 233-7995
Ray Vlasak	573-3243
Dave Wiest	
573-3862	701 866-9374

Fishing Report

Steve Lindow

Fishing this summer was good if you were looking for trout or bass and not so good if you were trying to catch walleyes. Lately, bass seem to be everywhere and lots of them. Size is good too - fish up to 18-19 inches are not too difficult to find. Minnows or leeches on jigs or fished below a bobber work well. Bass appear to be dominating all other species and by that I mean eating population of perch and young walleyes down to very low numbers as confirmed by the DNR. Net surveys for walleye were at 3.75 per net and perch were less than 1 per net. To correct the imbalance requires people to keep and eat more bass. They do taste good and are fun to catch. Smallmouth bass season closed Sept. 9th and is catch and release only

at this time.

Walleye numbers are down with very few small fish surviving after stocking in the fall. Most fish being caught are in the 18-21 inch range but they too are few and far between. I'm meeting with the fisheries manager to try and get an extra stocking this fall of larger walleye fingerlings. The larger size might get them by the bass eating machines.

Trout fishing this summer has been normal. Trout moved deeper over the summer trying to avoid the warm water. Most of the catching has been in the 35-40 foot range using down riggers trolling small rapalas and small orange spoons or bobbers using power bait or night crawlers. It seemed like there were not as many anglers this year so maybe there will be a few more larger fish available for next year.

Northerns are mostly deeper and difficult to catch with all the smaller trout available for food.

Crappies and sunfish numbers remain low. The bays have more weeds in them so if people release the few sunfish and crappies they catch we can get better reproduction and more of them!

(Fishing Report - from page 2)

A reminder for current and new property owners: to maintain or improve fishing and keep our lake water clear and clean, we have to maintain aquatic plant growth along our shore lines. The plant habitat is key to fish survival! Please don't remove vegetation from the water. Aquatic plants also consume phosphorus which reduces algae growth and keeps our water clear. Please do not use fertilizer on your lawn as it contributes to algae growth. Additionally, maintaining a 30 foot natural vegetation buffer zone along the water does a lot to maintain clear water. People with lawns right down to the waters edge should consider re-establishing natural vegetation to prevent run-off into the lake. Lawns look nice in the city but not so much up here in the north country! Many people comment on how pretty the lake looks because they can't see houses from the water. Lets try to maintain this appearance and improve it where possible.

SPREAD THE WORD!!! NATURAL IS GOOD!

AIS UPDATE

Steve Lindow & Paul Lundquist

This summer AIS access inspection was a cooperative effort between Becker County, Forest Township, and the Bad Medicine Lake Area Association (BMLAA). Becker County provided workers comp and liability insurance for hiring AIS Educators. Forest Township and BMLAA each provided \$2500 each for the employment of the access educators. We were fortunate in being able to hire a local college student with a long family history on the lake. In addition, our trained volunteers were able to fill in some of the hours at the access on weekends. Thank you to all that helped in protecting our lake from invasive species.

Preliminary analysis from the inspection data indicated that the monitoring was definitely worth the money. The lake access was monitored for 47 days, totaling 365 hours. The number of boats checked either entering or leaving the access added up to 563 (303 entering, 260 leaving). Of all the boats entering the lake, 10% (30) had violations of plugs not removed, vegetation attached to the boat or trailer, or water in live wells, and 15% (45) of boats entering the lake came from infested lakes. Of those 45 boats coming from infested lakes, 9% (4) boats had AIS violations. One in particular was especially bad and had a high probability of infesting Bad Medicine with zebra mussels. The boat came out of Lake Lida (which is infested with zebra mussels) in the morning and arrived at our access in late afternoon with the plug in and water in the boat and live well. The owner was from North Dakota and not fully aware of Minnesota laws regulating AIS. He was very cooperative. We drained all water out into the road ditch and thoroughly rinsed the boat with

buckets of lake water. It would have been better to send the boat to a decontamination unit for a high pressure hot water cleaning but those units don't exist up in this area.

While the access-monitoring program does not guarantee Bad Medicine will not get infested by some invasive species, it does establish a first and only line of defense at this time.

For next year, we would like to continue this cooperative AIS program with the county, township, and BMLAA. In addition, our Minnesota COLA organization is applying for a large grant through the Lessard-Sams Amendment to purchase about 170 decontamination units for local units of government to use for the prevention of spreading invasive species by using hot water and high pressure to decontaminate boats and trailers.

-Steve Lindow

Another summer has come and gone. Most of us are now thinking about getting our docks in and our boats winterized. It was a busy summer and now I get a chance to reflect on the many activities that I was involved with.

My involvement with AIS has been very satisfying . Mostly because of how important it is to this lake, but also because I feel my efforts have a made a difference, and I believe have been successful. Several of my neighbors have asked me what would happen if zebra mussels or milfoil got into the lake. I believe the following are possible consequences:

1. Enjoyment of this resource would diminish. Zebra mussels are extremely sharp and without foot protection would create a serious hazard.
2. Fishing would also be adversely affected. The mussels eat the same algae that our fish eat. This competition for that food source would be won by the mussels.
3. If milfoil got into this lake we would no longer be able to enjoy the swimming as we know it now.
4. Our property values would certainly go down. Experts believe they could go down as much as 30%. Even though this is an estimate, it most certainly is a concern. I hope this validates that we must continue to support all efforts to stop AIS.

-Paul Lundquist

North Country Trail Report

Ray Vlasak

It has been a year of great promotion for the North Country Trail. It started with the Governors Fishing Opener in Park Rapids where the local chapters had a booth displaying trail information, and applied temp tattoos to the kids and face painted hundreds of blue blaze on kids and adults cheeks. Next we celebrated the grand opening of the Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge trail section on National Trails Day. And the promotion was topped off with an article about the trail in the July-August issue of the Minnesota Volunteer Magazine.

Here are the coming events:

- Sept 21, 1:00, Fall Color guided hike in Tamarac, meet at Pine Lake parking area
- Oct 5, 1:00, Autumn guided hike, meet at Elbow Lake Rd. trailhead
- Oct 19, End of season celebration with Itasca Moraine Chapter (location & time to be announced)
- Jan 4, Winter Trails Day
- Feb 8, Snowshoe Hike, 1:00, Pine Lake parking area, Tamarac
- Mar 8, Snowshoe Hike, 1:00, Itasca State Park South Entrance

BMLAA ANNUAL DUES & MEMBERSHIP FORM-CALENDAR YEAR 2013 (Jan.1 - Dec. 31)

Member Names _____

Lake Address _____

Home Address _____

Lake Phone _____ Home Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

Dues Enclosed (\$15 per person). Send Membership Dues to BMLAA
39124 Horseshoe Rd, Ponsford, MN 56575 **Please circle preferred mailing address.**

My **Additional** Donation for Invasive Species Monitoring is enclosed for \$_____

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GET INVOLVED!

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, updates on the North Country Trail, access to the website, periodic mailings concerning lake information and responsibilities, etc. Please become a member and become active in our Bad Medicine Lake Area Association.

NEW BMLAA Website

The BMLAA has a new website. It can be reached at www.badmedicinelake.org. The website has information about BMLAA activities, fishing reports, water quality reports, invasive species activities, ice on and off records going back to 1973, and links to other lake related sites. Check it out and send any suggestions for additional content to Jim Eisele at jfe@arvig.net.

Check us out on Facebook!

The Bad Medicine Lake Area Association has its own Facebook page! Become a follower by visiting it at You can reconnect and keep in touch with all of your friends and family on the lake, learn how to become involved in the BMLAA, and view and post pictures of scenery and activity on the lake!


**Lynn Lindow****Forest Township Supervisor**

Forest Township News

It is hard to believe that another summer is behind us. It has been a wonderful summer to spend on the lakes and in this area.

The township has been busy with summer activities. The township continues to provide garbage disposal for area patrons. This spring many of the broken dumpster tops were repaired. We had much discussion on whether to purchase two additional dumpsters. We did rent an extra dumpster for the Labor Day weekend that seemed to be helpful. Two amnesty days were provided; one was in June and one in August. The recycle bins have been moved to outside the gated area for better access. We ask that you recycle as this provides revenue as well as creates more space in the dumpsters for household garbage.

Issues at the dump continued throughout the summer regarding the disposal of inappropriate materials such as demolition material. White Earth Sanitation refuses to empty the dumpsters that contain inappropriate materials leaving it to supervisors to deal with that waste. The township supervisors ask all patrons to be cognizant of the rules and follow them as it costs our taxpayer money to clean up after those who misuse this service. Those that do not comply, place an undo burden on supervisors as well as other patrons who take the responsibility of cleaning up after others. Please place all appropriate garbage in the dumpsters and secure the lids with the chains to deter animals.

We have been working to maintain the area roads. We reclaimed gravel from the ditches earlier this summer which has helped with the driving surface without the costs of hauling new gravel. Last fall the township brushed the ditches on Sunset Drive. In late fall the township will finish the brushing on the last stretch of Sunset Drive, work on sections of the East Bad Medicine Lake Road that are most obstructed, and work to

complete brushing on Basswood Lake Road.

The township is investigating the development of township-designated cul-de-sac areas on Black Bear Beach Road and Horseshoe Road to provide space for snow removal in the winter months. In order to provide snow removal, the snowplow needs room to turn around as well as deposit snow. This was a challenge this past winter with the amount of snow that fell late in the winter season.

Also, during this past summer, ditches were sprayed for noxious weeds. The noxious weeds identified by the county include spotted knapweed, tansy, wild parsnips, leafy spurge, hoary alyssum, wormwood and thistle. Please inspect your own property for these weeds to be sure you are not supporting noxious weeds. We are fortunate in Forest Township because we do not have a major issue with noxious weeds. Late this summer we followed up with the mowing of the ditches on all the main roads. With this work, we should be ready for the next snow season.

The township receives and reviews all building permits that are filed through the Becker County planning board. Any building or paving requires a permit from the county. Township jurisdiction addresses building beyond 267 feet from the shore land. Forms are available on the Forest Township website or can be obtained from Helen Holmer, Township Clerk.

The township website provides more information regarding township news and announcements. All meeting minutes and meeting announcements are posted on the website for easy access, www.foresttownshipmn.net.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact information is also provided on our website. The township supervisors thank you for a good summer and wish you well in the times ahead.

Reflections on Summer 2013 - A letter from the Editor

What a difference a year can make! Although that is maybe a cliché phrase, its words really held some weight for my family this year. The picture at the right shows evidence of a failed blueberry picking attempt at Lake George in July of 2012. The picture below it is from *this* year's Blueberry Festival in Lake George, which my brother and I and our parents took in for the first time ever (I would like to use this opportunity to formally apologize for eating an absolutely unreasonable amount of pancakes at the blueberry pancake feed that day). After taking in the parade, we pranced out to the patch and proceeded to pick a preposterous (how about that alliteration for a literary device - my English teachers would be proud) amount of berries. Five full pails were filled in less than two hours! At 70 degrees and sunny with a light breeze, the bugs didn't harass us; all (even the dog Jake) seemed to enjoy the solitude and peacefulness that can come from an afternoon in the woods picking. Oh how I wished the eight pictured above could have had a similar lot of luck! That would have yielded enough blueberries for pie everyday for a decade.

Speaking of that group and the difference a year can make: the beautiful young lady in the red sweatshirt went from being single and living in her hometown of Brainerd, Minnesota to fulfilling the fantasy of every young girl and marrying the man of her dreams, a rancher out in Avon, Montana. Meanwhile, less than a month later, I asked the curly haired cutie behind her to spend the rest of her life with me (she said yes!). Not to be outdone by his brother, my twin asked the girl in the green sweatshirt to be his wife a month after that. In between that time, my cousin, Erik Slette, who many have probably seen on the lake, asked his girlfriend of four years to marry him while on a walk on the Schumacher trail off of Sunset Drive. Needless to say, it's a good thing our Grandma is in such good health, because most don't get the "engaged" phone call that many times in one summer!

In looking back at the summer that just finished, a lot of things were much different on the lake for many people. The difference in our weather from this year to the last was incredibly noticeable and certainly influenced how time was spent at Bad Medicine, especially in late May and early June. With the late ice came clearer, cooler waters and less speedboat activity (although a dedicated few still forced in their Memorial Day ski!). Some had to adjust to the loss of loved ones; when I heard of Randolph "Casey" Jones passing in February, I reminisced about some of my earliest memories at the Chapel of the Good Creation and how different it has been since he has been unable to join us. Ed Klepperich, a former president of the BMLAA, also passed away this winter. The BMLAA board itself has also brought new faces of leadership; the residents of the lake should be very proud of the hard work they have done stepping into the roles left to them by the previous stewards of the lake.

The last set of pictures I would have included if I had more space were taken of my brothers and I by the Mississippi headwaters. One was of us as tiny squirts on our first trip ever, and the most recent was of us on a quick bike ride around the Wilderness Trail during our family vacation at the cabin this summer. Their absence hopefully saved my mom from tearing up while reading this, but hopefully the point of this reflection will not be lost! Our previous vacation a year ago included the typical schedule of hiking in the mountains, rustic camping, and taking in every national park west of the Rockies over the course of two weeks; just having a couple days at the lake this year was still a blessing. Like I said before, what a difference a year can make - lives get busy, people have to work, and family time gets chopped up. As we posed for that picture, my parents commented on how much smaller we were the first time that we stood in front of the landmark. The reality of how quickly kids can grow up was as clear to them as the picture itself, but the inevitable changes and adjustments that were already in motion were still something to be wrestled with.

J.D. Salinger wrote in *The Catcher in the Rye* that "Certain things should stay the way they are. You ought to be able to stick them in one of those big glass cases and just leave them alone." For some, they may wish to put their children or grandchildren in that glass case, hoping they will never get old. For others, it might just be that time on Sunday after 5:00 PM at Bad Medicine where the sun finally comes out, the wind dies, down, and the water is calm. If I could bottle that up, Monday wouldn't be so hard to deal with! Many of the efforts of our lake association are aimed at preserving the pristine beauty of our lake from the forces of change, from AIS to lake shore management. Sharper stings are rarely felt than that of change. Those words are echoed by author Mary Shelley: "Nothing is so painful to the human mind as a great and sudden change."

But Mondays are always going to come, and so are winters; kids are always going to grow up, and grandparents are eventually going to leave us. In fact, pretty much the only thing that we can be sure of never changing in this world is that nothing is ever going to stop changing. Since I've already used a few literary devices and a quote from a J.D. Salinger text, I think it is appropriate to back that statement up with something a little less intellectual: Taylor Swift once said, "This is a new year. A new beginning. And things will change." As we go into the new year, we can be sure that things will change, but at least one thing will remain constant: the Lord. I believe God will never change.

One of the coolest things I ever heard came from a lady from my church who was explaining to me some of her greatest fears. She said one day she processed in her mind what would happen if every single one of them came true. What if her husband cheated on her? Then what? What if her kids decided to abandon the faith? Then what? At the end of the day with all her greatest fears now a reality, she would always ask herself the question, "Then what?" Her answer: "God would still be God, and all His promises would still be true." How comforting and awesome is that? As we look to preserve and enjoy the great beauty and gift we have at the lake, let us always do so with the right perspective. Of course it is our duty to be the best stewards of this lake as we possibly can, but let us rest peacefully in the fact that even though the next nine months undoubtedly will bring about more change than just temperature, no matter what stage we are at in life, there is a God who has blessed us with Himself, which is all you need at the end of the day. I look forward to seeing you in May.)

- Ryan Sederquist -



2012 - 0 blueberries



2013 - 20 quarts



Then: cute girl I invited to the lake one weekend.



Now: My fiance whose favorite place is Bad Medicine Lake.

BAD MEDICINE LAKE AREA ASSOCIATION

Monette Lundquist
37617 Red Top Road
Ponsford, MN 56575



Bad Medicine Lake Association Board Members

Board Members	Officers	Phone	Term	Email
James Eisele	President	218-573-2213	6/12-6/15	jfe@arvig.net
Steve Lindow	Vice President	612-581-4137	6/11-6/14	steve.lindow@yahoo.com
Mary Follett	Secretary	218-573-3186	6/12-6/15	gmfollett@gmail.com
Monette Lundquist	Treasurer	218-573-3943	6/13-6/16	molundquist@gmail.com
Andy Skatvold		701-261-3687	6/12-6/15	andy@fmrental.com
Paul Lundquist		218-573-3943	6/11-6/14	plundquist68@gmail.com
John Sanger		218-573-3793	6/11-6/14	jtsanger@i29.net
Ryan Sederquist		701-388-8290	6/11-6/14	rseder@live.com
Don Rice		218-233-9418	6/13-6/16	jdonrice@gmail.com
Roger Olsen		218-233-7995	6/13-6/16	cjolsen@cableone.net