



# Bad Medicine

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE BAD MEDICINE LAKE AREA

Spring 2014

## ANNUAL MEETING

June 21, 2014

9:00 -11:00 AM

Come at 8:30 for coffee and stay after for a light lunch and fellowship with neighbors.

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### From the President

*Dear Bad Medicine Lake Residents and Friends,*

As I write this, our long and cold winter at Bad Medicine has finally come to an end. The ice left the lake on April 30th - two weeks earlier than last year - the loons and other birds have returned, and we are starting to see spring stirrings from the trees and other plants. It's going to be a great summer.

As far as we know, there were no aquatic invasive species (AIS) introduced into the lake last year. We attribute this success in part to our stepped up AIS monitoring at the public access and resorts. Working with Becker County and Forest Township, we were able to hire a young man who monitored boats entering and leaving the lake for about 24 hours each week through the summer. His educational efforts have raised awareness of AIS for almost everyone using the lake, and in 2014, we will again hire a person to monitor boats and educate boaters on weekends.

Another focus area for the BMLAA this year has been to develop an informational program about shoreland preservation and restoration. Because the quality of the water in Bad Medicine Lake is a direct result of the run-off from the land around the lake, it is important that this run-off contains only naturally occurring phosphorous and other pollutants. Attend the annual meeting to learn more about this joint project with the BML Foundation.

Please plan to attend the BMLAA annual meeting on June 21. The meeting will start at 9:00 AM, but come early for coffee, and plan to stay afterward for a light lunch. Our featured speaker will be Marsha Watland who is the Becker County Shoreland Specialist. In addition, we will have presentations on several pertinent topics including septic systems, Forest Township activities, water quality, and the BML Foundation successes. We also will need to elect five board members for the upcoming years.

It has been a pleasure serving as the BMLAA President this past year and to have been working with the excellent people on the board.

**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.*



# AIS UPDATE



RESULTS OF AIS LAKE MONITORING  
Steve Lindow

Thanks to all the property owners who have contributed money for AIS inspection of boats at the lake access. The contributions pay for the only line of defense we have to help keep invasive species of all kinds out of the lake. These contributions (\$2500) along with money from Forest Township (\$5000) pays the salary of the educator/inspectors at the access. Again, this year we have hired a college student for most of the inspection duties. Also, some of your AIS trained neighbors will be helping to fill in as needed. We appreciate all the help! After reviewing last year's inspection data, this was money well spent. The lake access was monitored for 47 days totaling 365 hours. The number of boats checked entering or leaving the access added up to 709 (371 entering, 338 leaving).

Of all the boats entering Bad Medicine Lake:

- 9% (34) had AIS violations of plugs not removed, vegetation attached to the boat or trailer, or a large amount of water in the live wells
- 14% (53) came from infested lakes
- of those 53 boats coming from infested lakes, 7.5% (4) boats had AIS violations

Of all the boats entering Bad Medicine Lake, 11% (42) came from outside Minnesota:

- 81% (34) of the boats came from North Dakota.
- 18% (6) of the North Dakota boats had AIS violations.

One infested boat in particular was especially bad and had a high probability of infesting Bad Medicine with zebra mussels. The boat came out of Lake Lida (zebra mussel infested) in the morning and arrived at our access in late afternoon with the plug in and water in both the boat and live well. The owner was from North Dakota and claimed he was not 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 yet.

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

As you and your friends launch boats this year, either from your private access or the public access, please **CLEAN, DRAIN, and DRY** the boat. If you know your boat was in an infested water before coming to Bad Medicine, use 120 degree hot water for 10 minutes to decontaminate the inside and outside. The decontamination should include the live wells, anchor ropes, carpet and all parts of the trailer. Your diligence is appreciated and necessary as it only takes one contaminated boat to impact everyone on the lake!

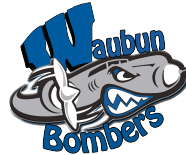
This year Becker County will be getting about \$160,000 from the state for hiring certified AIS inspectors and purchasing decontamination units where people can have their boat pressure washed before entering a lake. The county inspectors will be shifted from lake to lake and they have the authority to stop someone from entering a lake where as an educator/inspector does not. Our educator/inspector will use the local conservation officer and two Becker County AIS trained police officers to stop someone from entering.

## Waubun School District Update

*Lunak to accept position at Moorhead Area Public Schools after serving for past three years at Waubun-Ogema-White Earth*

### Bad Medicine Lake Area Association Members,

The 2013-2014 school year was once again a busy, yet successful one. In May, we ended yet another school year with the graduation of the class of 2014. The class of 2014 will be missed and has left a lasting impression on staff, their peers and their community.



The summer of 2014 will once again be a busy one for the school district. This summer the school district will be making repairs and cleaning to get the facilities ready for the 2014-2015 school year. This summer the district will also be putting in a new playground at the Ogema facility thanks to the hard work of the Ogema PTSO. At the same time, the district will also be putting the finishing touches on the ECFE addition.

The 2013-2014 school year was also a positive in terms of legislative changes which resulted in a positive change for education funding. The 2014 legislative session resulted in new revenue for fiscal year 2016. The revenue that was created is called Local Optional Revenue. This new revenue gives the board the authority to levy up to \$425 per pupil for the school district. The Local Optional Revenue comes in the form of an equalized formula, meaning that it is split between the state and local taxpayers. Based on the formula the state is scheduled to pick up 66%, while the local share is scheduled to be 34%. More research is needed to be done on this as the Minnesota Department of Education is just now starting to get the information out to school districts.

It has been an honor to serve as superintendent of Waubun-Ogema-White Earth Public Schools for the last three years. I wish continued success upon the district as it transitions to new leadership. I have accepted a new position as the Assistant Superintendent of Schools with the Moorhead Area Public Schools. My last day is scheduled for June 30, 2014. I would like to thank everyone for the three years I have spent here. You have made me feel welcome and for that I thank you. I have enjoyed my time with all of you and will remember you kindly always. If you have any questions, please contact me at 473-6171.

Sincerely,  
**Brandon Lunak,**  
Superintendent

See Lunak's responses to questions about recent school improvement programs within the Waubun Public Schools below:

1. The Waubun schools received a grant for school improvement during school years 2010 through 2014. How was this money spent, what were the results, and what programs are being continued after the money was discontinued/spent? If programs have been continued, what are the funding sources?

The school improvement grant (SIG) was 1.7 million over 4 years starting in 2010, about \$400,000 per year. Personnel expenditures accounted for a majority of the spending--about 75%. The SIG grant was under the umbrella of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) appropriations which means that while its primary purpose was improving schools, its secondary purpose was as a jobs funding mechanism--thus the hiring recommendations and requirements. The state mandated that certain positions be funded and certain activities be implemented. Positions that were mandated by the state and required to be funded by the grant included a building manager, an outside evaluator, and a grant coordinator. Activities that were mandated by the grant and funded by it included Professional Learning Communities (PLC's), the principal's academy, professional development, parent involvement activities, and extended learning opportunities such as after school tutoring and extended summer school.

Discretionary positions that were funded by the grant included a truancy and academic interventionist and a testing coordinator to implement the increased testing demands as required by the state. The district also used the funds to bring back positions that had been cut in previous years such as a 1.0 math teacher and a .18 Project-Lead-The-Way (PLTW) teacher.

Continued on page 5

# 2014 STATE OF WATER CONFERENCE



*Conference provides valuable information; AIS prevention falls mostly on lake associations*

*Jim Eisele & Steve Lindow*

On May 1-2, Steve Lindow and I attended the 2014 State of Water Conference near Brainerd. Attendees included representatives from many lake associations, many DNR and PCA representatives, and other groups interested in preserving Minnesota's water quality and quantity. Many of the presenters were from state agencies, but several were from local groups including Ken Grob from the Hubbard County AIS Task Force.

The conference sessions all related to 5 tracks:

- Aquatic Invasive Species
- Restoration of Aquatic Habitat
- Watersheds
- Ideas for Getting Things Done
- Groundwater, Nutrient Management and Run-off

The aquatic invasive species meetings were mostly educational. General information concerning identification and regulations concerning the spread of

invasive species were presented. Of interest was the aggressive program in Hubbard County. With the signed delegation agreement, Hubbard County is hiring over 30 DNR inspectors for their lake accesses. Hubbard County has bought in big time to an active program of preventing the spread of AIS species on their lakes and rivers. They recognize the negative tax impact AIS will have on the county tax base and their ability to fund county government.

AIS research on controlling zebra mussels is progressing slowly. It will take many years before anything is going to be found to stop them.

Grant money from the DNR is small and mostly used for AIS containment purposes on infested lakes. Bottom line, the fight against the spread of invasive species falls on local lake associations to develop and fund programs as best they can with only small amounts of help from the DNR.

We learned that Kentucky bluegrass is one of the most dangerous invasive species we have around lakes. This grass has shallower roots than native plants so it is poor at slowing down run-off and erosion.

Grass clippings also contain high levels of phosphorus which usually wash into the lake. The best way to reduce phosphorus run-off is to maintain a shoreland buffer zone consisting of at least 25 feet of native vegetation including trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers.

A new focus for the DNR and PCA is the study of the quantity and quality of groundwater. In some areas, agricultural irrigation and fertilization may be degrading groundwater quality and also may be lowering water tables. At this time, three regions have been chosen for special study including the Straight River running from Straight Lake to the Crow Wing River.

## Septic System Do's and Don'ts

*Steve Lindow*

Maintaining lake water clarity is key to Bad Medicine property owners. Becker County has identified our lake as having pristine water that should be carefully protected. Noncompliant septic systems threaten water quality by leaching sewage under ground into the lake. Sewage encourages algae growth which decreases water clarity. Over the last three years residents have been updating noncompliant septic systems. Once their septic system is compliant, it is important to maintain the system so it stays functional for many years. The following is a list of do's and don'ts to help keep your septic system functional.

Do:

- Conserve water
- Divert other water sources (i.e. roof drains) away from the septic system field
- Repair leaking toilets and sinks immediately
- Keep accurate records of maintenance and inspections
- Routinely pump your system every 3-5 years
- Keep vehicles off of the drain field
- Make sure all the covers are safe and intact
- Know the location of the septic system and drain field
- Keep all septic tank covers accessible for maintenance
- Use phosphate free detergent
- Use biodegradable toilet paper; some are better than others

Don't:

- Don't flush any of the following: Coffee grinds, floss, cigarettes, diapers, wipes, cat litter, sanitary napkins, tampons, condoms, fats, grease, oil or paper towels
- Don't overload the system with high volumes of water in one day; spread it out over several days
- Don't drive over or park on any part of the septic system
- Don't enter a septic tank for any reason as the poisonous gasses can be fatal
- Don't use additives as they destroy the natural bacteria that keeps your system functioning properly
- Don't plant anything except for grass over any part of your septic system; mow grass about 2-3 times a year
- Don't put chemicals down the drain such as: disinfectants, bleach, toilet bowl cleaners, solvents, paints, varnishes or pesticides. They kill good bacteria
- Don't use a garbage disposal, it increases pumping by 20%

# Water Quality Report

Jim Eisele

The report to the right about Bad Medicine Lake water quality is produced by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. No surprise - it shows that Bad Medicine continues to be a relatively unspoiled lake. During 2014, we will continue our practice of taking weekly transparency measurements and monthly chlorophyll and phosphorus samples.

# Fishing Report

Steve Lindow

This year the DNR will be doing a fish creel census to determine catch rates on all fish species in Bad Medicine. A DNR employee will be stationed at the access and moving by boat on the water. The employee is not a conservation officer. Please answer their survey questions and let them measure and weigh your fish. Data they gather will help study the impact of fishing pressure on various species of fish in Bad Medicine.

The was ice out this year on May 3<sup>rd</sup> (It should be noted that ice was observed being off on April 30th and also May 2nd, depending on location). Trout stocking was May 20<sup>th</sup>. Long line trolling with small rapalas work well when the water is still cold. As the water warms, move to downriggers pulling spinners and small red or orange spoons. Also, slip bobbers with night crawlers or use power bait, which will begin working 25-30 feet down over 50 feet of water.

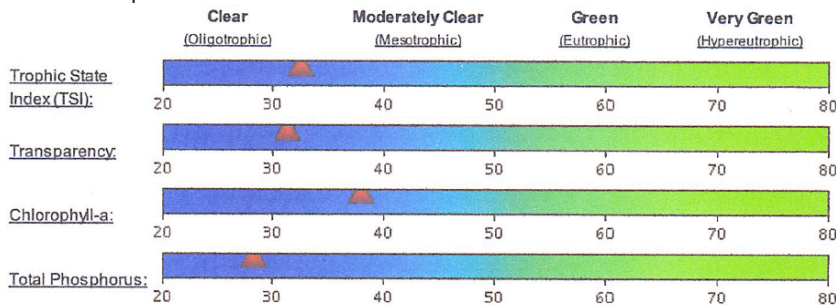
Smallmouth bass should be abundant this year. Release the larger adults and keep the smaller fish for eating. Smallmouth make for excellent eating.

Walleye numbers are quite low as are the perch numbers according to the last DNR survey. For some reason walleye fingerlings stocked in past years are not surviving. Best guess is the large population of smallmouth are eating most of the young stocked walleyes or eating down the perch population so fingerlings aren't finding enough food to eat. This fall the DNR will try to stock larger walleye fingerlings so smallmouth may not be able to eat them. Once again, keep those smaller smallmouth for eating!

Northerns, especially smaller ones, seem to be numerous. The latest research on northerns points out the importance of not keeping larger northerns. Large northerns eat small northerns so lakes don't become over populated with small northerns. These small northerns become too numerous and eat other populations down including walleyes. Keep the smaller northerns and let the larger ones swim!

Sunfish are still small in number. Size is quite good. Please help improve the sunfish population by releasing the few larger fish. Evidently they are reproducing enough to keep a small population going. Aquatic vegetation is important for both sunfish reproduction and it provides someplace for all young fish to hide from

The Trophic State Index (TSI) is a number that summarizes a lake's overall nutrient richness. Nutrient richness ranges from clear lakes, low in nutrients (oligotrophic), to green lakes, with very high nutrient levels (hypereutrophic). The chart below shows the overall TSI rating for Bad Medicine Lake (top bar), followed by TSI ratings for the individual parameters that contribute to nutrient richness. The TSI calculations are based on data collected between June and September 2004 to 2013.



Overall Trophic State Index for Bad Medicine Lake: 33

Parameter	10-Year Average of All Summer Samples	Parameter TSI	Expected TSI Range for Lakes in Same Ecoregion	Number of Samples
Transparency (meters)	7	31	38 - 47	313
Chlorophyll-a (parts per billion)	2	38	44 - 53	8
Total Phosphorus (parts per billion)	5	28	42 - 52	8

predators. With fewer crayfish the amount of vegetation in the bays and along the shore seems to be increasing. It is especially important for property owners to protect plants in the water. Keeping the shoreline next to the water covered with a berm of plants is a good way to protect new plant growth in the water. Lawns right down to the water's edge is not a good thing to do! Also, refrain from using fertilizer on lawns as it contributes to algae growth and a decrease in water clarity.

- Bad Medicine Lake Area Association Annual Meeting Agenda (Tentative) June 21, 2014**
- 9:00 AM Forest Township Hall**
- Review and approval of minutes of 2013 Annual Meeting
  - Treasure's Report and Membership Update
  - Election of new board members
    - Presentation of nominees
    - Nominees from the floor
    - Recognition of retiring board members
  - Aquatic invasive Species Update
  - Shoreline Restoration—Marsha Watland, Becker County Shoreland Specialist
  - Tamarac Discovery Center-Cathy Ferguson
  - Fishing Report & Creel Census
  - Water Quality Update
  - Septic Tank Inspection Status & Septic Do's and Don'ts
  - Bad Medicine Lake Area Foundation report
  - North Country Trail Update
  - North Country National Scenic Trail report
  - Cell Tower
  - Forest Township Update & Garbage Do's & Don'ts
  - New Business
  - Adjourn

# North Country Trail Report

Ray Vlasak

- June 7th** - National Trails Day Hike from CR-26 to 400th Ave & Chapter meeting at Ice Cracking Lodge. Hike = 5 miles. Meet - @400th Ave. Trailhead @ 1:00PM  
Meeting - 5:00PM  
Dinner - 6:00PM  
Info - Ray Vlasak 218-573-3243, llc@northcountrytrail.org
- July 26th** - History Hike through Frazee. Meet - Lion's Park, Frazee, MN, 9:00AM.  
Info - Hank Ludtke 218-234-3369
- August 20-24** - A Trail Runs Through It Hiking Celebration; Duluth, MN  
Info - northcountrytrail.org or facebook.com? NCTinMN
- September 27th** - North Country National Scenic Trail Day (Fall Color) hike from Camp 6 trailhead to Greenwater Lake SNA - Hike = 4.3 miles. Meet at Greenwater Lake SNA trailhead at 1:00PM.  
Info - Karen Stenberg 218-847-1929, llc@northcountrytrail.org
- October 4th** - 8th Annual North Country Hiking Fest at Itasca State Park & 14th Annual Hike for Hope. Time and meeting place TBD.  
Info - Matthew Davis 701-388-1883
- October 18th** - Fall Hike Blackbird to Pine Lake Trailhead. Hike = 4.1 miles. Meet @1:00PM at Pine Lake Trailhead.  
Info - Ray Vlasak 218 573-3243, llc@northcountrytrail.org

# Forest Township Report

Lynn Lindow

Welcome back to the lake! It has been a bit of a long winter and spring appears hesitant to take hold. We know it is coming and are looking forward to summer fun on the lake and in the woods.

The town board has been working hard throughout the winter to take care of township business. Much of our focus has been on maintaining township roads throughout the winter as well as looking to the summer to determine what maintenance needs to be completed during this time. Most of the roads are in good shape now that the frost is out of the ground. The full maintenance roads have been graded after these last rains so they are in good shape for driving. On May 18<sup>th</sup>, the town board will complete the road review of all township roads. Following the review, the town board will set a schedule for this summer's work for road maintenance. Your input is welcome.

The dump area continues to be bothersome. We have had patrons disposing of garbage such as demolition materials and furniture that must be taken to the transfer station. The closest station is located in Osage. Remember that no construction materials can be brought to the dump except for during Amnesty Days. We would like everyone to use the recycling bins as the township receives funds for these materials. It will also make more room in the dumpsters for household garbage. Please be sure to put your garbage into the bins, not beside the bins. Be sure to keep the chains on the dumpsters locked as we have already experienced some bear problems. They do make a big mess!

The last amnesty day for the year is August 23<sup>rd</sup>. We hope that this will be more convenient for those who are here on weekends. Also know that the township plans to purchase two new dumpsters in the next months to accommodate the increase in garbage that we are experiencing.

Last year we were able to spray weeds along the roads as well as mow the ditches late in the summer. This will occur again this summer as we work to keep noxious weeds under control. We need assistance from all residence to remove noxious weeds from your private property. We are most concerned about spotted knapweed and tansy. There are many more noxious weeds identified and if you have any questions concerning noxious weeds on your property, please do not hesitate to call me and I can help (218-573-3765). If we all work together, we can keep noxious weeds under control in our township. We will also be enlisting the county forestry department to work with us to control weeds on county land.

Just a reminder: the town board meets the second Tuesday of each month at the Town Hall. Meetings start at 6:30pm. These are open meetings and anyone may attend. Forest Township also has a website [www.foresttownshipmn.net](http://www.foresttownshipmn.net). On the website we post news items, information regarding the dump, and past and future meetings. Our contact information is also listed on that site.

## Lunak (from page 2)

As part of the focus on remediation, a 1.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) reading teacher was funded as well. Additional discretionary activities that were funded by the grant were the expansion of the Advanced Placement program and the College in the High School program, and the implementation of the intensive remediation READ 180 program in 2012 and the MATH 180 program in 2013-2014.

*Results from the SIG:* High School reading scores improved an average of 20% from 50% to 70%-- despite the tests changing twice in the four years. The Special Ed reading scores improved by at least 10%. High School Math scores improved an average of 10% despite two test changes. Accuplacer scores have improved, resulting in a record number of students eligible for post-secondary enrollment option (PSEO), College in the High School, and Online College in the High School programs--from about 10-15% to 25-35% of students in the junior and senior classes. Attendance averages remain above 90%. Students required to attend the mandatory grades 7-11 summer school has declined from 75 students in 2011 to 45 students in 2014. The number of courses failed has decreased accordingly, while rigor has increased. Advanced placement (AP) exam numbers have increased. Students can earn in excess of 60 college credits through college courses, AP courses, and PLTW courses. 90% of our seniors apply to one or more colleges each year. ACT scores are up and the number of students taking the ACT has increased. Waubun High School was awarded a bronze medal from the US World News & Report for its AP participation and College course options. Discipline incidents have decreased yearly. Graduation rates remain above 90%.

*Continuation:* Through creative scheduling, PLC time was embedded as part of the day and included in the 180-day contract as staff development time. By going through the year long process of conversion last year, the alternative learning program (ALP) was changed to an alternative learning center (ALC) which allowed for continuation of the after-school and summer programs through the extended time funding from the state. The remainder of the after-school tutoring position is funded through the State Success For The Future (SFTF) grant. Changes to the Alternative Delivery of Specialized Instructional Services (ADSIS) funding from a competitive grant application to a process more akin to the Title I funding will allow us to continue funding the truancy and academic intervention position, the reading position, and part of the Math position. The building manager position will return to a dean of students position and be absorbed by the general fund. The grant coordinator position will be dissolved after the end of the grant. Through attrition and by changing staffing assignments, the testing and data coordinator position will be funded through the foreseeable future as the state and feds are still requiring at least three rounds of testing per year for various improvement plans. That position will be funded through a combination of Title 1 and Title II funds. Funding from the SIG provided seed money for the advanced placement (AP), College in the High School, and remediation programs to establish themselves and so the cost for continuation is minimal.

### 2. What is the status of the current Early Childhood Family Education building project? What will the new facilities be used for? What were the total dollars spent, and what was the source of those dollars?

The ECFE is a 10,090 square foot addition designed for additional sections of our ECFE program. This is specifically for the 4 year-old program. Once completed, the program will shift from a four-day a week, half-day program to an all day, five-day a week program. The district believes that this preparation will help achieve success with the Minnesota World's Best Work Force Plan, the students being kindergarten ready.

Construction costs for this project were estimated at \$1,626,870. The district obtained a dollar for dollar grant from the Minnesota Department of Health and Human Services. The grant was for \$551,532, while the remaining dollars came from the district. The district is paying the local portion through a lease and using general fund dollars to pay the lease on the matching portion of the grant. The remaining funds will be paid out of fund balance as a one-time expenditure.

### 3. What is the current enrollment in the alternative school program? Grade levels and ethnicity? What is the graduation rate of those students in the alternative program compared to the graduation rate of the regular school program?

The Alternative program is a drop-out prevention strategy. The program averages 29 students enrolled full-time, half-time (meaning that part of their day is regular program and part is at the ALC) or supplemental (meaning they are enrolled full-time either with us or elsewhere and take additional courses to recover credits.) Enrollment is rolling as students finish their requirements. Grade levels are 10-12 as students must meet age and other requirements to attend as outlined in the state statute. Ethnicity mirrors the high school fairly closely -- about 75% Native American but about 90% in the free-and-reduced program (FRP). Graduation rates for ALC's are calculated on a 4, 5, or 6 year cohort as those students are coming into the program behind in credits to begin with. Graduation rates at the ALC are lower than the regular program which is why all steps are taken to keep kids in the regular program and the ALC program is a last resort to dropping out. Students who attend the program usually are admitted for the following reasons: a year behind in credits, have attendance issues due to mental health treatment, chemical dependency treatment, or documented health issues, or being a parent or pregnant. The ALC's grad rate for 4-6 year cohorts was 24 students out of 45 or about 53% -- which is about the state average for alternative programs.

### 4. The Waubun schools receive federal impact aid. Explain where these dollars are spent and address the possibility of lowering property taxes because Waubun does receive these funds.

Impact Aid provides financial assistance to the Waubun school district. Impact Aid was designed to assist school districts that have lost property tax revenue due to the presence of tax-exempt Federal property, or that have experienced increased expenditures due to the enrollment of federally connected children, including children living on Indian lands.

The Waubun School District uses Impact Aid for a wide variety of expenses, including the salaries of teachers and teacher aides; purchasing textbooks, computers, and other equipment; after-school programs and remedial tutoring; advanced placement classes; and special enrichment programs.

The program is designed for property tax replacement and not property tax reduction. At this time the board and the administration have no plans to use these dollars as property tax replacement dollars.

**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.

**Chapel of the Good Creation**

Services at the Chapel of the Good Creation, located at Bad Medicine Resort, begin the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend, May 25, at 11 a.m. Worship is at the same time every Sunday through Labor Day weekend.

These services have been held each summer for over 50 years with 30-150 in attendance, depending on the weekend. Following the service there is coffee and visiting with neighbors from around this lake, as well as Long Lost and other lakes.

Worship is led by resident volunteers and everyone is welcome. For more information, contact Don Rice at 573-3140.

**July 4th Fireworks**

Veronen's Resort is once again hosting the 4th of July fireworks extravaganza at the south end of the lake. This annual event will take place at dusk, on the date of the actual holiday, July 4th, weather permitting. Donations in the form of checks or cash will be accepted at Veronen's Resort. Please contribute early and often so that we may continue to host this community event. All of us at Veronen's thank you!

**BOOK CLUB**

The Bad Medicine Book Club continues to function despite losing Harvey and Marlys Johnson as members. For our April Book Club we read and discussed the book Harvey wrote called CROW. It was great discussing fond memories of Harvey while we also talked about the book. In May we will discuss the book Etched in Sand by Regina Calcaterra. Lynn Lindow will be the leader

and we will meet at Ed and Bonnie Strohmeiers'. In June we meet at Bill and Sue Sangers', discussing the book The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd. Roger Geddes will be the discussion leader. We always take the month of July off to enjoy family, but will be at it again in August. The book to be discussed is An Invisible Thread by Laura Schroff. Sue Sanger will lead the discussion at David and Alice Hagens'. As always anyone is invited to join us. We meet on the fourth Tuesday at 1:30 PM. If you are interested, call Sue Sanger at 573-3793 or e-mail her at [sang@arvig.net](mailto:sang@arvig.net).

**PONTOON SOCIAL**

*The fifth annual pontoon "floaters party" will be held Saturday, July 12th*

Weather permitting, we'll plan to meet and tie together in a flotilla of boats somewhere on relatively calm water at the north end of the lake at 5 p.m. Exactly where will depend on the wind and its direction. Bring your own beverages and hors d'oeuvres to share - last year's offerings were delicious! Please also bring boat fenders and an anchor. A second "floaters party" will be held Saturday August 23rd with the same time, place, and directions as the July event.

On July 12th call Dennis & Ruby Anderson at 573-3502 or Don & Rose Andersen at 573-3690 between 11 a.m. to 1p.m. for an update on where we will meet.

**Amnesty Days 2014**

The last Amnesty Day for 2014 is August 23. Please do not leave amnesty materials at any other time. These items have to be transported separately at considerable cost to the township and ultimately to our taxpayers. For those who do it right - and most of you do, thank you. If you cannot wait for Amnesty Days, two area transfer stations are available to you:

--Main location - 3 miles north of Detroit Lakes on Highway 59 and 1/2 mile west on CR#144. The hours are Monday and Friday, 8 AM to 6 PM; T - Th 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday 8 AM to noon.

-- East location - 1/2 mile west of Osage on Highway #34 and 1/2 mile south on CR#47.

Hours are Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Tuesday 3 a.m. to 6 p.m.

*BMLAA Calendar*

**Summer 2014**

May

- 25 - First Service @Chapel of the Good Creation (11:00AM)
- 31 - BMLAA Board Meeting

June

- 7 - National Trails Day Hike
- 10 - Forest Township Board Meeting (6:30PM)
- 21 - BMLAA Annual Meeting (9:00-11:00; coffee and doughnuts @ 8:30; light lunch to follow)

July

- 4 - Fireworks Show @Veronen's
- 8 - Forest Township Board Meeting (6:30PM)
- 12 - Pontoon Social (5PM)
- 26 - History Hike through Frazee

August

- 12 - Forest Township Board Meeting (6:30PM)
- 23 - Amnesty Day
- Second Pontoon Social (5PM)
- 20-24 - A Trail Runs Through It Hiking Celebration

September

- 2 - Forest Township Board Meeting (6:30PM)
- 27 - North Country National Scenic Trail Day (Fall Color)

**An extra dose of humor....**



**Check us out on Facebook!**

To find us, search for our group: **Bad Medicine Lake Area Association.**



# The Rest is Noise: *Ryan Sederquist, Editor*

*Taking a look at the rich musical history on the Lake of the Valley*

It is 10:50 a.m. on a Sunday morning on Bad Medicine Lake. The birds have been cheerfully chanting a morning tune, fishermen have long been awake, and the sun has peaked its face through the blue sky to give us a peaceful reminder of the blessings of another weekend on this treasured escape. Meanwhile, as cars pull into Bad Medicine Lake Resort, the sound of hymns being played on the piano and conversations echoing against the reverberant walls of the Chapel of the Good Creation set our hearts back in the place where they always seem to be once a week from Memorial Day until Labor Day:

the serenity of a lake church in the woods filled with the people we know enjoying the fellowship which we love. One of the most moving elements of those weekly gatherings, and perhaps for some people, of their entire "lake heritage," is the beautiful music. The musical traditions and connections on this lake run deep. From longtime choir directors to instrumental composers to loyal accompanists and willing soloists, this small lake church community is blessed in the arts in a way that many large urban churches can't even boast about. "We could probably write books - yes plural - and probably should," claims Randa Degerness, a reflection of the vast history and many stories and memories that flood the musical banks of so many who have lived here. Although we won't do everyone's stories and contributions justice, hopefully this article will remind you of yet another element that makes this community so unique.

It goes without saying that without the performance venue, which primarily has been the Chapel of the Good Creation at Don Tschudi's resort, much of this music making would have never happened, or at least been shared. As published composer (Neil A. Kjos Co.) Bruce Pearson recollects, "Much of the music on Bad Medicine has occurred on Sunday mornings during the summer at the Chapel of the Good Creation. In addition to the sermon, attendees at the Chapel of the Good Creation can hear Bill Sanger's trumpet playing, Ruby Anderson's flute playing, a mixed quartet, Casey Jones' family vocal ensemble, solos by Randa and Randy Degerness, and the chapel choir, composed of lake residents and visitors. This list represents only a few of those who have blessed us with their God-given musical talents." In it's "glory days," a choir made up of lake residents would perform up to four times a summer - Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, and one other time. Soloists performing special music have also always been a treat for the congregation and an outlet for the musically gifted on the lake throughout the years.

The unique flavor of services at the Chapel of the Good Creation would not be possible without the faithful contributions from pianists throughout the past such as Naomi Rice, Marlyns Johnson, and Alice Hagen, and they would certainly be lacking in spice and vibrancy without the occasional ringing sound of Bill Sanger's trumpet. One of my own musical memories as a youngster was receiving a compliment from Bill when I was just a sixth grader and nervously performed a special music selection on trumpet while my uncle, Mike Slette, delivered a sermon at the chapel. As I get older and weekends at the lake become less frequent, I love hearing the call from Naomi (our next door neighbor on the lake) on a Saturday evening as she lets me know that she heard me warming up on the horn and was wondering if I would like to accompany the hymns at the service the next morning.

*Music has been an important component of the history, tradition, and culture of the lake we call Bad Medicine.*

*For my family and me, the music on Bad Medicine has been an important component of our worship, communication, entertainment, healing, and fellowship - all universal human behaviors.*

~ Bruce Pearson ~

friends that they haven't enjoyed the full Bad Medicine experience until they immerse themselves in the Sunday church service. I always forewarn them that they will be introduced as guests at the church, that we will sing "Happy Birthday" and "Happy Anniversary," and that we will sing the "Amen's" at the conclusion. It always brings me great joy to see the shocked look on their faces when the first music gets made at the service, which seems to say, "I didn't know this few people could create such a full, harmonized rendition of 'Happy Birthday!'" From the greetings to the 'amens,' from the coffee and treats to the old picture albums of Bad Medicine in the 50's, 60's, and 70's, Tschudi's resort certainly holds a fair share of the richness of our lake's culture. The early years of the chapel also give great insight into the musical legacy of our friends and neighbors.

In the late 50's, a group of friends, led by Casey Jones, Paul J. Christiansen, and Oscar Anderson, decided over frequent coffee get togethers that it would be nice to have a church service out at the lake. The first services started appearing with those three and guests like Ray and Erma Stordahl, E.G. Larson, Finn and Carol Grinnaker, Hilding and Helen Hagen, Withnells, Folletts, and Christiansens. This was before the time of Don Tschudi's resort - it was Lou's resort - and the current home of the chapel was non-existent. "We didn't have a place to worship together and we wanted to create a community where we could come together to worship," remembers Randa Degerness, who was a young girl at the time of the church's inception. "There wasn't anything like we have today - and so we started out by gathering in various cabins. Someone would sign up to host, everyone would bring some goodies, and someone would sign up to preach." Hymns were chosen - of course back then there was no Little Hymnbook and therefore, most of the songs were sung a cappella, and only with the familiar first verses. "It was a very cozy, welcoming, kind of community thing to do." In those early days, the services were not held every Sunday, but rather, five or six times a summer. "Oscar Anderson did a lot of the preaching, which was absolutely fabulous," recalls Degerness. Even without a piano, the musical aspects of the gatherings were still effective. "It worked out fine - we had a lot of really good singers." There wasn't any liturgy - if there was spoken portions, it was based off the Lutheran tradition, since most of the attendees had a Lutheran background. Eventually, Carl Lee, a former campus pastor at Concordia, brought a written liturgy to the congregation.



The church has meant a lot for many different people. Don and Naomi Rice have attended the summer services weekly since 1986, preaching and accompanying, and view the hymn singing as a vital part of the worship experience. Bill and Sue Sanger have been involved in special music themselves and in bringing special groups to the lake, such as quartets "The Generations" from Riverside at UMC, "We Fore" from River Ranch Chapel in Florida, and "Joyance," which consisted of the couple plus Jim and Nadine Wheeler. They also were a part of the special Water Music concerts that were put on by the Park Rapids Area Community Band when they played in the bay area behind the resort. Reflecting on her musical journey on the lake, Sue Sanger says, "Music means so much to Bill and I - especially since it's something we can do together. One of our fondest memories was playing in the Water Music concerts. One year my mom and dad were able to be here - that was such a thrill!"

If you want even just a taste of what music and community means to the residents of Bad Medicine, I strongly encourage you to attend a service at the Chapel. I joke with my



*Longtime Concordia College Choir director Paul J. Christiansen had extensive ties to Bad Medicine Lake and was instrumental in starting the worship services which now occur at the Chapel of the Good Creation.*

Starting out with only 25-30 people, it quickly grew. "It grew to where there just wasn't room for everyone in the cabins," remembers Degerness. Around this time, Don and Carolyn Tschudi graciously offered the upstairs to their resort meeting hall, which was being regularly used for square dancing in the fall and spring. With a new space to accommodate the rapidly growing congregation, the next thing deemed necessary was a hymn book. "Everyone wanted a hymnbook so that we could sing more than one verse and so that everybody had the words." Hand picked by Casey Jones, the Little Hymn Book was put together and collated by Greg and Pat Cottrell; she had been the accompanist for Jones's Colorado Choir and he sang tenor in the group for decades and the couple owned a printing company in Denver. Degerness gives praise to her dad's book, saying, "It has withstood the test of time and people love those hymns. It really brought the congregation together because everyone could join in the hymns, even those who didn't know the words, and that was important." His proficiency in putting together such a great book had already been honed once before. He and Paul J. Christiansen had previously worked together to put together one of the hymnals for the Lutheran church. "He had kind of gone down that road before," said Degerness. The influence was not solely a Lutheran one though; songs were gleaned from his days conducting at a Baptist church in Indiana, and he looked through the Methodist hymnal as well. In terms of the selection process of the hymnbook, Jones had very strong feelings about what should be included. He wanted good composition and the best piano accompaniments. "He had such a strong gift that way," Degerness fondly remembers.

The friendships between Oscar Anderson, Paul J. Christiansen, and Casey Jones formed the core group that kept the church going. The relationships started in Moorhead, Minnesota and had its ties based at Concordia College. Jones was a student under Paul J. Christiansen at Concordia, and also was the Chapel Choir director for two years there. "My dad and Paul J. were good friends from when he was in college studying under Paul," Degerness recalls. "From the time we were little, we would go fishing on the island and around his bay. My sister Becky and I would sing duets while we were fishing and Paul would like to sit out on his deck and listen." He had a position directing the choirs (11 of them) at Trinity Lutheran in Moorhead as well, which is where he worked with Oscar Anderson. Although he had been to the lake before many times with his aunt Clara Jones, who was a missionary to China, his ties to Bad Medicine Lake residents grew once he met other people at Concordia who were also on the lake.

The legacy and life of Casey Jones is one that this article probably can't do justice. From his musical beginnings as a tenor singing over the cacophonous sounds of his father's revival meetings' music to his choir jobs in Grafton, Grand Forks, Moorhead, Indiana, and Alamosa, he has developed a reputation for having a keen ear and fostering a mature, rich, round sound in his choirs, a trait Paul J. fell in love with when he guest conducted the Colorado Choir, which Casey founded and conducted for over 30 years. His friendship with Christiansen influenced him in starting up his own series of Christmas Concerts at Adams State, where he conducted for 25 years. The Colorado Choir also had

their own series of Christmas Concerts in which they performed many Christiansen works.

When asked about what it was like to be in a family that musical, Randa Degerness pointed out that being musical and performing was an "untold expectation." At age 4, her and her 6-year old sister started taking piano lessons and even sang the books of the Bible in front of the congregation at Trinity Lutheran. They would sing on the long road trips between Indiana or Alamosa and the lake, learning how to sing four part harmony, carry a tune, bring out a melody, and appreciate classical music. Brother Nathan Jones and sister Kirsten Peaslee also have performed many times when staying at the lake.

As much of a musical giant as Jones was, he is just one of three prominent choir directors with Concordia College ties to have lived on Bad Medicine. Paul J. Christiansen, who once owned large portions of land all over the lake, directed the choir at Concordia from 1937-1986 and founded the Concordia Christmas concerts. His presence on the musical scene was very substantial, as Dovre mentions: "Many of the early residents were great singers so just the ordinary singing of hymns was rich and there sitting among us was Paul J. Christiansen, which made it all the more meaningful to us." Christiansen was influential in starting the choir at the church, which would later be directed by Casey Jones, Gar Lockrem, Randa Degerness (both former students of Paul J.), and Bruce Pearson. "We had lots of choir experience and we couldn't imagine worship without singing," said Dovre.

Lockrem is the other Concordia taught choir giant who spent time influencing the musical scene on the lake. He taught in West St. Paul for many years; during the 60's and 70's, his choirs at Henry Sibley were some of the best in the state. During that time, they toured extensively and even performed with the Minnesota Orchestra. At the Chapel of the Good Creation, Gar touched many lives on the lake as well. "Some of our fondest memories were singing for Gar Lockrem," Sue Sanger reflected. "He would get so emotional - we always knew when we did a good job!" The choir at the Chapel was started by Lockrem in the 80's. Unfortunately, it has been hit and miss in the last few years - in fact it wasn't assembled last year.

As a Concordia College music education student myself, I often brag about the rich Concordia tradition that exists on Bad Medicine Lake, from the likelihood of running into past president Paul Dovre while I'm walking my dog down the driveway to singing out of a book that was put together by Casey Jones.

Fortunately for all of us, Casey brought much of his and his family's professional background to the residents of the lake through the worship services.

In their countless performances at the Chapel, these highly trained musicians' goal has always been to bless the congregation with their gifts. Degerness comments, "Because music has always been so integrated at the church all of

our lives, we want to provide a higher level of musical enhancement to the service. It's to support the whole service and the message and everything else. We have always looked forward to provide some kind of special music. That has just been ingrained in all of us - oh that's part of what we do and that's part of going to the lake - singing for church. It's so automatic and we absolutely love to do it."

The musical offerings of those who perform at the lake have always been appreciated. Dovre mentions, "I just really enjoy singing with others and appreciate people being willing to share their musical gifts in the Chapel of the Good Creation." For those with exceptional musical talent, the hope has never been to draw attention to oneself, but rather glorify God. "It's not a showy thing at all - we want to provide and share the gift that God has given us," said Degerness. "That's the medium with which we want to provide it. It's just another offering. How can we make everyone more worshipful."

Taking a step back and looking at the history of the Chapel and the legacy of the music on Bad Medicine Lake, I think the number one theme that comes to mind is how both help to foster a vibrant community on the lake. The church started for that reason: to bring a community of worshippers together on the lake. Sharing a solo, playing taps on the trumpet off the dock, and singing alongside your neighbor out of a hymnal all nurture that. And like a tune that gets stuck in our head, the memories of our favorite hymns and the sound of a meaningful melody always seem to be triggered when we gather together.

The music is powerful, and it brings us together and closer to God. Under the shade of the trees, amongst the singing of the birds, and with the lapping of the waves at the shore, as we sit along the shores of Bad Medicine, either on the dock, up on the deck, or in the Chapel of the Good Creation, we all become an audience to the noises of our Creator's concert hall, and we discover that the rest is noise.

## From the kitchens of Bad Medicine...

### Baked Rainbow Trout

**Start with four 1 to 2 pound Rainbow Trout.**

**Remove heads and innards, leave skin on.**

**\*To bake on grill, punch holes in bottom of aluminum foil pans or double folded heavy**

**duty aluminum foil, so oil from fish and bacon will drain during cooking.**

**\*Fill cavities of trout with a mixture of chopped onion and dill weed.**

**\*Place in pans, put one slice of bacon on each fish.**

**\*Bake on grill for 30 to 40 minutes at medium heat (350 to 400 degrees). Skin will easily peel off after baking.**

**\*Serve with a wonderful white wine.....**

**\*Tell lies about fishing during the meal.**

**Serves 4**

**Don and Rose Andersen**





# BMLAA ANNUAL DUES & MEMBERSHIP FORM-CALENDAR YEAR 2014

Please note names and addresses and return form, even if you wish to not pay the dues and continue receiving communications from the Association .

Member Names \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

CC -E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Dues are \$15/person Please circle preferred mailing address.**

Send Membership Dues to BMLAA, 37617 Red Top Rd, Ponsford, MN 56575

Enclosed an **Additional** donation for Invasive Species Monitoring for \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Friends of Itasca State Park  
36750 Main Park Drive  
Park Rapids, MN 56470

The Friends group is a priceless asset to the park. *Friends of Itasca State Park* is actively involved in supporting the park in ways that directly impact programs and facilities. Through both volunteer efforts and fund raising the Friends group works to help the park staff maintain and improve the visitor experience we all cherish.

*Friends of Itasca State Park* appreciates the loyal and generous support of current and past members and volunteers. Memberships and donations fund programs including education programs for children and adults. Friends provide funding to assist with capital improvements to enhance the visitor experience.

People familiar with Itasca State Park know it's a special place:

A place that inspires and rejuvenates the mind.

A place where wonders of nature are preserved.

A place to appreciate the outdoors.

A place to learn while having fun.

A place of lasting memories.

Many people have a special association with the Park that inspires feelings of ownership and duty. Membership in the Friends is a way for people to say thanks and help assure the experience continues. The organization has a nominal membership fee, but mainly relies on donations to fund projects.

But none of this can be accomplished without a vibrant membership in the Friends group. Please consider joining Friends of Itasca State Park and making an additional donation. *Friends of Itasca State Park* is a 501(c)(3) tax-deductible organization.

Thank You,

*Friends of Itasca State Park*

<http://www.friendsofitasca.org/>

## Membership Application September 1 – August 31

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Annual Membership \$10 per person

\_\_\_\_\_ Family or Organization Membership \$25

\_\_\_\_\_ Life Membership \$500

\_\_\_\_\_ Amount of Additional Donation

**Thank You for Your Support.**

Please return this form with your contribution to:

Friends of Itasca State Park

36750 Main Park Drive

Park Rapids, MN 56470

**BAD MEDICINE LAKE AREA ASSOCIATION**

Monette Lundquist  
37617 Red Top Road  
Ponsford, MN 56575



<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Officers</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Email</b>
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Steve Lindow	Vice President	612-581-4137	6/11-6/14	<a href="mailto:steve.lindow@yahoo.com">steve.lindow@yahoo.com</a>
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