



Bad Medicine

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE BAD MEDICINE LAKE AREA

Fall 2017

ANNUAL MEETING

June 23rd, 2018

9:00 -11:00 a.m.

Forest Township Hall

Inside this Issue →

- * NEWS - Pg. 2-3
 - * AIS update
 - * Bad Medicine Water Quality Research Project
 - * Free Money!
- * REPORTS - Pg. 4-5
 - * Fisheries Update
 - * Forest Township News
- * Reminders and Refreshers - Pg. 5
- * COMMUNITY - Pg.6
 - * Nextdoor.com
 - * Courtesy message
 - * BMLAA website
 - * Support MNLR
- * BMLAA Membership - Pg 7
- * BMLAA Board Information - Pg. 8

DEAR BAD MEDICINE LAKE RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS,

Q: What is the Bad Medicine Lake Area Association?

A: The Bad Medicine Lake Area Association (BMLAA) is a voluntary organization of area residents and property owners dedicated to the betterment of Bad Medicine Lake and the surrounding area.

Q: What is the mission of the Association?

A: According to the BMLAA bylaws: “The purpose of the Association is to bring together the residents of the Bad Medicine Lake area to preserve and improve the quality of our water, land, air, aesthetics, wildlife and other natural resources of the Bad Medicine Lake area; to provide educational and training resources for the healthy enjoyment of present and future generations; and to work in conjunction with federal, state and local agencies, public and private, to further the purpose of the Association. The Association shall keep members informed of the status of the lake, the surrounding area, and the activities of the Association.”

Want to know more about the BMLAA? Turn to page 3.

We look forward to having you join us in our efforts to keep Bad Medicine Lake one of the crown jewels of Minnesota lake country for years to come.

Scott Bentson
President, BMLAA

<http://badmedicine.mnlakesanddrivers.org/>



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



Big thanks to our resident inspectors; checking for AIS is ultimately the boat owners' responsibility.

By Steve Lindow

Invasive species boat inspectors were hired by Becker County Soil and Water Conservation District. Most of the funding is provided by the state legislature based on the number of lakes in the county, number of accesses, and the number of access parking spots. Becker county qualified for about \$320,000 to hire inspectors (35), purchase decontamination units(4), and hire an AIS coordinator to manage all the aspects of the program. Forest Township added an additional \$2,500 and the Bad Medicine Lake Area Association added another \$1,500 for inspections on Bad Medicine Lake. Bad Medicine has been lucky to have two resident college students perform the inspections: Thomas Vlasak and Matt Lorenz. Be sure to thank them for their long hours protecting the lake. Great job guys! Thank you for your dedication over the last 2-3 years. We will need new inspectors next year as both of these guys will be graduating from college and moving on.

The boat inspectors checked boats from the fishing opener through Labor Day. Weekends were covered from 5:30 am Friday mornings to about 8 pm each day. During the week, most mornings were covered for 3-4 hours. On the fishing opener Saturday, they checked over 100 boats in and out of the access. Most boats were in compliance of the invasive species regulations.

We had a decontamination unit at the access from Friday morning to Sunday evening again this year. A number of boats required decontamination because they had water in

their live wells or the boat had recently been in an infested lake. I will have the statistics covering this year in the spring newsletter.

A new invasive plant called starry stonewort has shown up in 8 Minnesota lakes over the past two years, mostly around accesses. Stonewort is a stringy, coarse-like algae that grows in thick mats that makes watercraft travel near shore and shallow water nearly impossible! It is very tough to remove from boat trailers because it gets smooched between the boat and the bunk of the trailer and will survive there for a number of days. To kill stonewort, one needs to apply water of at least 120 degrees for two minutes followed by 5 days of drying. If you bring a boat into Bad Medicine, I would strongly recommend not going into any lake known to be infested with stonewort before coming here.

Inspectors can only do so much. As residents and boat owners, we are responsible for checking our own boats for invasive species before launching at the access or at your private launch site. This inspection needs to be done every time and should be especially thorough when coming from a known infested water. It would be best to get a free decontamination at the access when coming from an infested water. Please be diligent with your boats.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO KEEP OUR LAKE FREE OF INVASIVE SPECIES.

CLEAN- DRAIN- DRY EVERY TIME !!!!!



Bad Medicine Water Quality Research Project

Steve Lindow

BEMIDJI
STATE UNIVERSITY

The intensive research project conducted by Bemidji State University (BSU) is well underway. Since May, two Bemidji limnology students under the direction of Dr. Rick Koch have been collecting water samples in three locations: the north, middle, and south end of the lake. The samples are collected every two weeks with weekly samples taken when the secchi disk water

clarity dropped. The extra samples should show what changed to cause the decrease in water quality. Samples are chemically preserved and stored until winter when they will be analyzed for total phosphorus, hardness, and chlorophyll. These three parameters were collected at four different depths in an attempt to determine what is going on under the water. Hopefully, the decrease in water clarity this summer can be explained from the stored samples.

We have been seeing more of the green, filamentous algae collecting on rocks, docks, boat lifts, and fishermen's jigs. The increase in this stringy algae indicates more nutrients (phosphorus) may be entering the lake from shore. Another colonial green algae that many people have observed, which looks like half inch clumps of green jelly attached to dock and boat lift legs, is a species that normally grows in healthy, clear water streams and sometimes is found in clear, low nutrient lakes like Bad Medicine. Thanks to Rick and his team for providing the above information.

Chemical changes in water quality are only part of the explanation in water clarity changes. Various species of algae and zooplankton (algae eaters) populate the water column throughout the summer. The interactions between these two organisms determines how much algae is left in the water. Greater amounts of algae decreases the water clarity. Algae and zooplankton populations were sampled, using fine mesh nets, at four different depths in all three sampling locations. Again, these samples are preserved in an alcohol solution for analysis this winter.

All of the above sampling will continue into November and then start again next spring after the ice is out, continuing through fall 2019. Scientifically, three years worth of data are needed to establish any water quality patterns that may exist. I will update everyone in the next spring newsletter and at the annual meeting in June about the analysis of the 2017 data. After three years of sampling, we should have sound evidence to indicate what projects we can implement to maintain water quality and property values into the future.

Water clarity and quality of Bad Medicine Lake is the reason why we value having homes and cabins here and not some other lake. Bad Medicine is one of the few pristine lakes in Minnesota. As residents of the lake, we have a need and responsibility to keep the lake pristine into the future. This research project is a key step in establishing the future of our loved lake!

Please read Ray Vlasak's article in this newsletter on how you can contribute to the funding of this research project. BSU is donating about \$40,000 worth of lab supplies. This research project benefits everyone on the lake and your funding help is needed. All donations this year are tax deductible on your 2017 tax return. Please contribute at whatever level you can to help fund this project that will help keep the water clear!

From the front page (continued)

Q: Does the BMLAA have any legal authority?

A: No. The Association has no formal power to make or enforce laws, rules, or regulations. Those powers belong to government entities like the state, county, or township. The Association, on behalf of its members, does have a legitimate interest in laws and rules that affect the lake and its residents and in their appropriate enforcement by government entities. The Association hopes to educate and encourage its members to act in a way that is friendly to the lake, their lake neighbors, and the surrounding area.

Q: What does the BMLAA do?

A: The Association supports a variety of actions that are likely to have the most positive (or least negative) effect on the long-term health of the lake environment. A partial list includes supporting AIS inspections, supporting the water quality research project currently underway, making sure the membership is aware of best practices to minimize adverse impacts on water quality, participating in the statewide Coalition of Lakeshore Associations (COLA) and coordinating with Forest Township and Becker County in pursuit of the purposes of the Association. Each member receives a Spring and Fall newsletter by mail, receives a Bad Medicine Lake Area Directory (last published in 2016) and has access to the BMLAA website.

Q: When does the BMLAA meet?

A: The annual meeting of the Association is held in June of each year. All members are encouraged to attend and participate. Monthly meetings of the board of directors are held from April through September of each year at the Forest Town Hall. All Association members are welcome to attend and to bring concerns or suggestions to the board.

Q: How can I keep current with what's going on with the lake and the BMLAA?

A: The very best way to keep current is to visit the Bad Medicine Lake Area Association website at <http://badmedicine.mnlakesanddrivers.org/>. Bookmark the site and follow the links to an amazing amount of interesting and useful information.

Q: Who is eligible for BMLAA membership?

A: All individuals eighteen years of age or older who are property owners, spouses or children of property owners, or seasonal renters and interested in furthering the purpose of this Association shall be admitted as a member of this Association upon payment of the \$15 annual dues. Individuals not meeting the foregoing qualifications may be admitted to full membership by vote of the Board of Directors and upon payment of the annual dues. Each member who has paid the annual dues for the current year shall be allowed one vote in the affairs of the organization.

Q: How can I join BMLAA?

A: Go to <http://badmedicine.mnlakesanddrivers.org/>, download the application form, fill it out and return it to the address on the form with your payment. Simple as that.



Free Money

Free Money – sounds like something you might see on a late night TV advertisement, right? Well it's not. Free money really is available right here in Forest Township. All you have to do to get it is **recycle!** That's right - recycling is like getting free money and much more:

- We actually get paid for recycling. Everything that goes into recycling earns money for the township and in turn reduces your taxes.
- Every time you throw something in the recycling bin and not in the garbage, it saves on fees we pay for garbage hauling and disposal. That's more money in your pocket!
- Recycling is great for the environment. It helps prevent toxins from getting into our lake and soils and reuses limited resources.
- Recycling helps keep the lake, woods, ditches and roads clean. Maybe that's not free money, but it's a good thing.

So, take a minute and separate your recyclables from your garbage and make some free money.



Fisheries 2017 Update: Bad Medicine Lake*Nathan Olson*

Fisheries staff from the DNR office in Detroit Lakes completed a fisheries assessment in Bad Medicine Lake at the end of June 2017. Below are some preliminary highlights from this survey, graphs of historical net catches, and the most recent fish stocking history for Bad Medicine Lake.

- The number of northern pike in gill nets was similar to past surveys at 3.3 pike per net. Pike were nice sized with an average length of 24 inches long. The largest northern pike captured was almost 40 inches long.
- Smallmouth bass abundance in gill nets continued to increase to a new high of 3 bass per net. Average size was 14.5 inches long, with the largest smallmouth bass measuring almost 18 inches long.
- The number of rainbow trout in gill nets dropped below Bad Medicine Lake's average, with only two trout captured per gill net. Most trout were between 13 and 15 inches long, but one trout measured 21.5 inches.
- Burbot (eelpout) abundance was similar to past surveys, with 1.6 eelpout captured per gill net. All eelpout captured were 18 to 22 inches long.
- Similar to past surveys, largemouth bass, yellow perch, bluegill, and black crappie were not abundant in nets during the survey. Most yellow perch were only 5 to 7 inches long, but a few perch up to 11 inches long were captured. Bluegills were primarily small as well, but fish up to 9.5 inches long were sampled. Sampling also found some black crappies up to 13.5 inches long.
- Bad Medicine Lake's historical average walleye gill net catch is 7.6 walleye per net. The catch rate in 2017 of 6.3 walleye per gill net was below this average, but above the catch rate in 2012 of 3.8 per net. Walleye averaged 16 inches long, but fish from 7.5 to 25 inches long were captured.

Looking Forward

For many species of fish in Bad Medicine Lake, their population appears to be similar to past surveys. It is promising to see northern pike abundance remain low. Many other lakes in our management area have seen pike numbers increasing, causing difficulties with walleye management in those lakes. However, unlike northern pike, smallmouth bass abundance was at a new historic high for Bad Medicine Lake. Only the future will tell if the smallmouth bass population will continue to increase. Walleye abundance appears to be higher than in 2012. Currently, Bad Medicine Lake is stocked every even year with 2 pounds of walleye fingerlings per littoral acre (the amount of water in Bad Medicine Lake that is 15 feet deep and less). This equates to about 576 pounds of walleye fingerlings, with their number varying from 6,000 to 17,000 fish, depending on their size. The past two stockings have consisted of releasing larger-sized fingerlings, with the hope that there will be better survival. The walleye we captured during the 2017 survey will be aged this winter to determine how many were the result of these stockings, and will help guide future stocking efforts. In addition to walleye, rainbow trout continue to be stocked into Bad Medicine Lake, with 12,000 trout stocked in the spring and 4,000 trout stocked in the fall.

Forest Township Report*Lynn Lindow*

The summer is winding down with fall colors starting to show around the lake and in the woods. We hope that everyone has been able to enjoy this beautiful area throughout the summer.

The township has been continually working on roads and garbage removal throughout the summer. The roads got a bit rough during the dry spell in July, but, since the rain started in August, the road bed is much improved. We were able to put calcium chloride on two miles of East Bad Medicine, from the intersection of County Road 129 to Sunset Drive. That application seemed to be very helpful for dust control on our most traveled road. We also had Black Bear Beach Road widened as the trees were encroaching over the road, causing problems for the road equipment doing maintenance. That project should be completed by the end of September. Finally, we have some designated road sections needing additional gravel that will be completed this fall.

Weeds on our roadway got a good foothold this spring, so we have been working to keep them in control. The roadways were sprayed and mowed in June before the seed pods formed. Those same steps will take place this fall with a second mowing and spot spraying. This should help keep the weeds in control going into winter. As you clean up your yards, watch for common tansy (yellow bloom) and spotted knapweed (purple bloom). Make sure these do not grow in your yards and do not dispose of these plants debris in the woods.

The township held two amnesty days this summer - Memorial Day weekend and the last weekend in August. Thank you to all residents that abided by the rules and took waste over to the town hall on the designated day. There continues to be illegal dumping throughout the summer. Remember we have cameras installed and there is a fine that is enforced when illegal dumping occurs. When there is not an amnesty day, the transfer station in Osage is open on Saturday morning year round and Tuesday afternoon through October.

There has been no activity on the Verizon Tower construction to this point in time. What I do know is that the delay is due to the installation of electricity to the site. State permits are required and the cost for the electric is extremely high. Verizon is questioning whether the tower is cost effective. I will continue to work with the individual in charge and, as I receive information, I will ask the Association to forward any significant updates to it in an email.

On behalf of Forest Township Supervisors, I hope you have a good fall and winter.

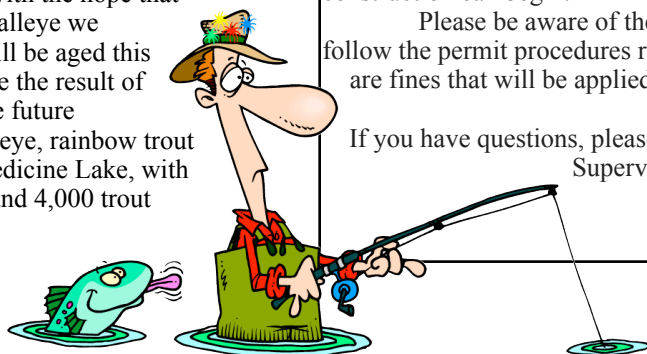
Forest Township Permit Regulations

All building construction and land alterations, including sand beach blankets, require a permit from Becker County Planning and Zoning before any building can be started. Forest Township is divided into two districts- Shoreland District and the Conservation District. The Shoreland District, which includes the tier of the shoreland up to 267 feet, is regulated by Becker County Planning and Zoning. The Conservation District begins at 267 feet and includes all remaining land within the township boundaries. In this section, permits for building are required by both the county and the township.

The procedure to follow for obtaining a permit is to complete a permit application with Becker County Planning and Zoning. County approval is required before any construction can be started. If the structure falls beyond 267 feet from the High Water Mark, a permit is required from Forest Township. A permit form can be obtained on the Forest Township website, foresttownshipmn.net, under "zoning." Your township permit must be forwarded to the township clerk along with the permit fees before any construction can begin.

Please be aware of the township ordinance and county ordinance and follow the permit procedures required before any construction takes place. There are fines that will be applied if these protocols are not followed.

If you have questions, please contact Lynn Lindow, Township Supervisor, [218-573-3765](tel:218-573-3765).



AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES -

Stop any spread into Bad Medicine Lake

ZEBRA MUSSELS

- >> May disrupt food supply affecting the native aquatic invertebrate community and fishery.
- >> Will kill all or most all native mussels.
- >> Can clog motors, intake pipes, and other equipment in the lake making them difficult to use.
- >> Can make swimming hazardous where ZM's cover lake bottom with live ZM's and beaches with sharp shells of dead ZM's.
- >> Filtering capacity can cause conditions that increase growth of other plants to greater depths in a lake.
- >> Have an open water reproductive form called a veliger that is invisible and can move in a bait bucket, boat live well, trailer, or other non-drained or dried up water surfaces.
- >> Pelican and Lizzie Lakes in Ottertail County, Gull Lake in Crow Wing County, and Mille Lacs are the closest infested locations to Bad Medicine.

- >> Fish populations will decline as ZM filter out nutrients for smaller fish.
- >> ZM attach to any submerged surface including docks, boat lifts, swim rafts, and pumps.
- >> One female ZM produces one million eggs each year.

SPINY AND FISHHOOK WATER FLEAS

- >> Prolific and can displace native plankton that are native fish food for trout, walleye, and walleye in Bad Medicine Lake.
- >> Because of the tail spine zooplankton are difficult for certain fish to feed on and can kill larval fishes.
- >> Impedes fishing by entangling in lines and fishing equipment.
- >> Can change a lakes ecosystem.
- >> Have an overwinter egg that can resist drying and freezing, making them easy to transport.

>> Lake of the

Woods and Mille Lacs are the infected lakes closest to Bad Medicine Lake.

VIRAL HEMORRHAGIC SEPTICEMIA (VHS)

- >> VHS is an extremely serious disease affecting fresh and saltwater fish.
- >> Spreading in Great Lakes and was recently verified in Lake Superior although no fish kills have been documented in Lake Superior.
- >> Can cause large scale fish kills and have severe economic consequences on the fishing community.
- >> Can be moved in water or the fish themselves such as bait fish and/or stocked fish from infected populations.
- >> At high rate of infection fish will display widespread internal and external hemorrhages (bleeding) throughout body surface and within internal organs.

For more information contact: Darrin Hoverson, Invasive Species Specialist, MN Department of Natural Resources, 218-699-7293, darrin.hoverson@state.mn.us

**REGULATION REFRESHER
TOWNSHIP AMNESTY & RECYCLING**

Tim Holzmann

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, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Friday, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Saturday, 8 a.m. - noon.

~~New East location - 1/2 mile west of Osage on Highway #34 and 1/2 mile south on CR# 47. Hours are Tuesday, 3 p.m. - 6 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

More information on Township Trash Rules are posted on the new township website http://www.foresttownshipmn.net/pdfs/Trash_Rules.pdf

With spring and summer come hungry, messy bears. Everyone must fasten the dumpster covers. If a chain or fastener breaks call Tim at 573-3442.

Please call Tim Holzmann, Township Supervisor, at (218-573-3442) or email at chairperson@foresttownshipmn.net if there are any questions or to report problems at the refuse collection site.

KEYS

You may obtain a gate key from Tim Holzmann 573-3442 to gain access to the area. You are responsible for everyone who uses your key – be sure they know the rules. Lock the gate when leaving or close the gate if the lock is not present. Fee for the replacement of a lost key is \$25; each additional key is \$5.

BECKER COUNTY AMNESTY

We encourage you to take your appliances, tires, and batteries to the transfer station north of Detroit Lakes, phone 218-847-6382. Appliances include refrigerators, freezers, ranges, microwaves, washers, dryers, dish washers, and dehumidifiers. Take these items to the transfer station instead of waiting for Township Amnesty Days. This

will save the township having to pay for hauling.

FOREST TOWNSHIP TRASH RULES

1. Use the recycle bins – all clean cardboard must be recycled. Follow the posted recycle rules. Place unbroken fluorescent bulbs in labeled recycle container.
2. Recycling saves the township thousands of dollars every year and it is the environmentally sound thing to do.
3. Put only bagged household garbage in dumpsters. Close and secure the lids to keep bears out. Fill dumpsters completely (front and back lids) in order starting from the east.
4. Take all other trash to transfer stations – Detroit Lakes, the new east location, Park Rapids, or Elbow Lake.
5. Do not leave the following: appliances, TVs, microwaves, electronic equipment, furniture, building materials, steel, ashes, or charcoal.
6. Animal carcasses, dirt, gravel, leaves, grass clippings, brush, or logs should be put in the woods out of sight from roads and trails.
7. Take treated lumber to transfer station (do not burn).
9. Hire a commercial service if you are operating commercially from your home.

BURNING REGULATIONS, DID YOU KNOW???????

The leading cause of wildfires is burning barrels. Burning barrels are regulated by MN statute.

A burning permit is required for **ALL** open burning of brush/leaves/wood when there is less than three inches of snow on the ground. You can obtain burning permits at Bad Medicine Resort or Veronen's Resort. A permit is not required when there is over 3 inches of snow on the ground.

NOTE: Several of your lake neighbors can testify to the cost of being cited by the DNR for burning without a permit.

Septic System Do's and Don'ts

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 over load the system with high volumes of water in one day, spread 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-the poisonous gasses can be fatal
- Don't use additives-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%

GET INVOLVED!

Why should I become a member of the BMLAA?

- Meet your lake neighbors and join in the effort to protect and preserve our magnificent lake.
- Express your views about how to improve Bad Medicine Lake and the surrounding area.
- Learn about what’s happening: reports on current water quality, fishing, fish stocking, the North Country Trail, news from Itasca State Park, security issues, lakeshore best practices and more.
- Learn what you can do to monitor and fight aquatic invasive species.
- Support an in-depth, 3 year water quality study that starts this summer and keep up with the findings. Get an introduction to the study from one of the researchers at the Annual Meeting.
- Get the new Lake Directory, newsletters, COLA reports, visit the BMLAA website for history and current information, check out the Bad Medicine neighborhood on Nextdoor.com.
- Get involved, volunteer, help BML and the surrounding area in whatever ways you can.

BMLAA WEBSITE

If you are looking for information about Bad Medicine lake and the surrounding area, check out the BMLAA website at <http://badmedicine.mnlakesandrivers.org>.

Information on the site includes:

- Board of Directors meeting minutes
- Past BMLAA newsletters
- Members of the BMLAA Board of Directors
- Ice On and Ice Off records
- Fishing reports
- DNR beach and dock regulations
- A link to John Sanger’s weather station on the lake
- Invasive species reports

Courtesy and Respect for our Bad Medicine Lake Neighbors and Friends

These are a few of the issues that came to the board’s attention this summer. We thought the subjects were worth mentioning in the newsletter.

- Drive cautiously on the roads around our lakes. Watch and slow down for walkers and runners, children, and pets. Cars and trucks traveling on dirt roads throw up dust and rocks that could injure a pedestrian or a pet.
- Remember to stay at least 150 feet from structures in the lake (docks, rafts...) when boating, skiing, and using personal watercraft.
- In Minnesota, fireworks used by individuals without a permit cannot be explosive or leave the ground. If fireworks of any kind leave the ground they are illegal.
- Review the Snowmobilers Code of Ethics found in the DNR Snowmobile Safety Manual. Remember to stay on marked trails and respect hikers, skiers, snowshoers and other winter sports enthusiasts. Stay safe!
- Keep safety first and foremost when discharging firearms. Give your neighbor a call to alert them if you are going to be shooting near their property.

Check out the Bad Medicine Lake Neighborhood on Nextdoor.com!

The 78 members of Nextdoor have helped the Bad Medicine Lake community stay connected and informed. Bad Medicine Lake Nextdoor is a free, private network for people who are seasonal and year round verified residents of Bad Medicine Lake.

It’s an easy and safe way to get notifications of lost dogs, bear sightings, snow removal/painter/handyman/boat storage suggestions, items for sale, and even news about baby loons. It’s even helped members get deliveries from Minneapolis and misplaced sunglasses returned to owners in Grand Forks.

There is a pet care group of members willing to take dogs out or let cats in. Going forward, think about the possibility of a carpooling group or a shared ingredient group for those times you realize you are short one egg for your brownies?

It’s easy to join. Add your name to this neighborhood network by going to Nextdoor.com, Bad Medicine Lake, and entering your email address. If you have questions or need help, call or email me.

Linda Bentson, lbentson23@gmail.com, (218) 684-1234.

Support for MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates (MLR)

Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR) is a non-profit advocacy group that is focused on protecting Minnesota’s lake and river quality and heritage for current and future generations. MLR is your only voice to the legislature. The director and lobbyist spend many hours at the capitol monitoring, advising on, and suggesting changes to laws, codes, and regulations that will affect your lake, your rights and your property taxes. Through MLR efforts, the tax rate on seasonal cabins has been reduced from 2.25% to the current homestead rate of 1%. MRL educates legislators, the general public, and property owners on issues related to preserving our waterways. It sponsors seminars on passing recreational property to the next generation, is involved in Aquatic Invasive Species legislation (doubling of AIS fines), and incentives for sustainable forestry. Membership is not dependent on any level of dollar contribution but individual contributions are critical for MLR future success. Obtain membership information at the MRL secure website (<http://mnlakesandrivers.org>) or call 952-854-1317.



Help Protect Our Lake: With Help from Our Friends!

Did you know that in Becker county, the Shoreline Restoration Team will come to your home and evaluate how best to prevent runoff entering the lake, how to avoid erosion of your shore or how to build shoreline buffers? Gabe Dretsch, shoreline technician, and his team are experts in how to best help us keep Bad Medicine the clear and clean gem of a lake that we all love. There is no cost for them to make an initial visit to evaluate your property and only a small charge for them to develop a plan on how to help you protect our lake.

But there’s more! In many cases, the county may cover a portion of the cost of creating a water garden, or shoreline buffer on your property. Gabe can be reached at (218) 846-7360.

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Itasca Park phone numbers are:

Jacob V. Brower
Visitor Center:
218-699-7251

Douglas Lodge:
218-699-7217

Campground
Registration:
218-699-7214

DNR information
1-888-646-6367

Check us out on Facebook!

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



2017 BMLAA Annual Membership Form

Member Names _____

Mailing Address _____

Lake Address _____

Lake Phone _____ Main Phone _____

E-mail Address: _____

CC -E-mail: _____

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 \$ _____

Rainbow Trout Fishing Report

Al Nielsen and Randy Johnson

For the two of us, there is nothing more exciting than to see that line come off of the down riggers when our grandchildren are in the boat. Seeing the trout jump out of the water and make a couple of runs, as well as seeing and hearing the squeals of happiness and big smiles from our grandchildren is priceless. We have fished together for rainbow trout since the mid-80's and for the most part have always used the down rigger system. Our report focuses on how that method has worked for us this year. For those trout fisherman using long lines, planer boards, and doing bobber fishing, their story may be different for this year.

For the summer of 2017, we would call the fishing "spotty", because compared to past years, the fishing was less consistent. Usually, June is the best month for catching a number of small trout after the lake has been stocked in mid-May, but this year it seemed slower than normal. We did catch a few of the bigger fish (16-24 inch) and we heard from a number of other fishermen that they were catching fish in this range also.

July started out hot with good numbers being caught and as the month wore on, the fishing became spotty again.

August continued to be challenging as the thermocline deepens and the trout are less active and seem less interested in becoming part of our dinner menu.

As most of you know or have experienced, the walleye fishing is not where we would like it to be and we think the bass and northern pike fishing has created a good diversion for other fishing activities.

We could probab
lake named Bad Medicine

Happy fishing!



A Good Dose of Humor



BAD MEDICINE LAKE AREA ASSOCIATION

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