

Bad Medicine Lake

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE BAD MEDICINE LAKE AREA

Fall 2015

ANNUAL MEETING

June 18, 2016

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,

Hello everyone, my name is Mary Lindstrom and I am the new President of the BMLAA.

It is a privilege to be on the board. I have lived on this beautiful lake with my husband Craig for 9 years now and I have been coming up here for 20 some years. He has been on the lake for over 40 years. Our family and friends love this lake and we do a lot of fishing, hunting and four-wheeling, as well as just enjoying the woods. This area has so much to offer. It is just a peaceful and beautiful area.

We as the association are concerned about the AIS issue. We all want to do whatever we can to prevent the zebra mussels from getting in our lake. It is such a beautiful lake that we want to preserve the beauty of it. I know we will continue to have discussions on this topic. Steve Lindow, our Vice President, is a very big advocate of this and he will continue to follow through with it. I am very thankful that he will continue to stay on this project.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call me. Our next board meeting is October 17.

Check out our web page at <http://badmedicine.mnlakesandrivers.org>

Mary Lindstrom
BMLAA President



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

Fishing Report

Steve Lindow

If you were trout or smallmouth bass fishing this summer, you had a good year. If you were after walleyes, then it was a not so good year. Twelve thousand trout were stocked this spring with four thousand scheduled for later this fall. The purpose of fall stocking is to produce larger spring fish for the start of the fishing season. The stocking regiment seems to be working, with the added benefit of larger fish surviving into later years. Many more trout this year ranged into the three to five pound range. Power bait fished near the lake bottom over deep water seemed to be the secret in catching most of these larger fish. Trout fishing on Bad Medicine closes October 31.

Winter trout fishing on Bad Medicine was being considered by the DNR. Nathan Olson, Detroit Lakes area Fisheries Manager, spoke at the annual BMLAA meeting in June about the positives and negatives of opening winter trout fishing. After the presentation and a discussion session, a vote was taken with an over whelming majority voting not to recommend trout fishing in the winter. In late August The DNR decided *not* to open the lake to winter trout fishing because there are already a number of lakes in the area open to winter trout fishing and the extra fishing pressure would have too great of a negative impact on summer trout fishing.

Smallmouth bass are still being caught in large numbers. We encourage you to keep and eat smaller bass under 18 inches. Smallmouth bass taste really good. Try them! Also, the bass population has greatly reduced the crayfish numbers, allowing more aquatic plants to grow along the shoreline. This has provided more habitat for sunfish and helps maintain the high water quality of the lake by absorbing phosphorus out of the water column. Please, help maintain the plant growth along your shoreline!

Walleye fishing has been poor. If you caught one, it was probably in the 20-22 inch range. DNR fish surveys indicate stocked walleye fingerlings are not surviving. The low survival of fingerlings is likely related to the over abundance of smallmouth bass. Bass have eaten the crayfish population down to low numbers and therefore have probably turned to eating perch and stocked walleye fingerlings for survival. Smallmouth bass fishing becomes catch and release after Sept. 13th.

Northerns are low in number, which is good because in lakes where the population is high, walleye numbers are greatly reduced, as northerns eat stocked fingerlings. Look for the DNR to expand the bag limits of northerns to ten (10) under 22 inches with only 2 over 26 inches in 2017 for central Minnesota lakes. The rule change would reduce the number of "hammer handles" in lakes and give more walleye fingerlings a chance to survive.

Eelpout fishing has been a new item on Bad Medicine this past winter. Very little snow allowed people to access the lake with cars. Give them a try as they are good eating when you get them unwrapped from your arm!!! They are a member of the Cod family that have very white, tasty meat.

² GOOD FISHING!

AIS NEWS

Steve Lindow

Bad Medicine boat inspections for all aquatic invasive species (AIS) started on opening of fishing in May and continued through Labor Day. Most inspections took place at the public access Wednesdays through Sundays and at Veronen's Resort on Saturday afternoons. This year we were able to get a decontamination unit, provided by the Becker County Soil and Water Conservation District, which was set up at the public access to clean any watercraft

suspected of carrying invasive species. Inspection data has not been analyzed yet, but violation rates seem to be running about 5-10 percent for boats entering the lake. Violations included plugs in, plants attached to boat and trailer, water in boat, and in one case Zebra Mussels attached to the sea legs of a pontoon attempting to enter through Veronen's resort.

The inspector working at the resort was contacted about a pontoon coming in from Pelican Lake, a heavily Zebra Muscle infested lake since 2009. On arrival, the inspector observed rocks and sand embedded in the sea legs with adult Zebra Mussels mixed in with the sand and rocks and large numbers of small Zebra Mussels attached to the sea legs of the pontoon. Water was also observed dripping out of some of the metal tubing. It was obvious the owner did not inspect the pontoon before leaving Pelican Lake even though he said the pontoon was out of the water for five days before transporting it to Bad Medicine Lake. A conservation officer was contacted to document the Zebra Mussels attached to the sea legs of the pontoon. The following morning, the pontoon was decontaminated, but the inspector could not get the hot water pressure spray into some parts of the sea legs, so access was not recommended. The owner cooperated

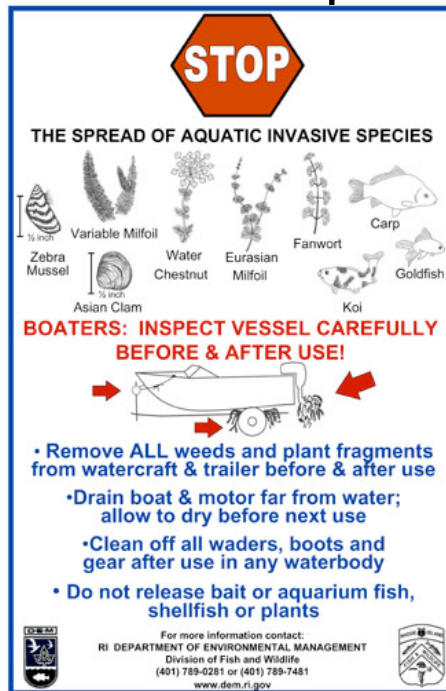
and decided to return the pontoon to Pelican Lake. A ticket for illegally transporting Zebra Mussels was issued to the pontoon owner. However, the incident does not stop there.

The owner had launched the pontoon two previous years without inspection, relying on time out of the water to kill any attached Zebra Mussels. As a result, a county and state DNR scuba team did an under water inspection in front of the resort, across the lake, and around the public access. Boat lifts, docks, and rocks were inspected with *no Zebra mussels found*. The same under water inspection will be conducted over the next two years because it can take two years for Zebra mussels to grow large enough to be readily observable.

This incident is a perfect example of why it is important for all watercraft owners to thoroughly inspect for all invasive species both when they leave a lake and before entering the next lake.

Cooperation between Veronen's Resort and Becker County Soil and Water Conservation District AIS Inspectors provided the needed barrier in stopping a Zebra Mussel infested pontoon before it entered the lake. Had the AIS inspector not been at the resort that day, Bad Medicine probably would have been infested. The salaries for the inspectors, provided by many members of the Bad Medicine Lake Area Association, Forest Township, and Becker County Soil and Water Conservation District, has been money well spent.

Please everyone, PULL THE PLUG, CLEAN, DRAIN, and DRY your watercraft and trailer thoroughly every time you leave a lake and before you enter the next lake. It is also the law!!!



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!



If you would like to contribute to "Another Good Dose of Bad Medicine," email me at rseder@live.com. Whether it is a feature article, a calendar event that you would like the community to be aware of, or a simple news item pertaining to the lake and its residents, your input is greatly encouraged and appreciated. Articles for the spring newsletter should be sent in no later than May 20th, 2016.

- Ryan Sederquist, Editor

Lynn Lindow
Forest Township Supervisor

Forest Township News



As we come to a close of another summer at the lake, I would like to reflect on the accomplishments of the township this past year.

The roads have been maintained the best they can be with the wet and then dry season. Over the summer we had the roads graded weekly, trying to keep them as smooth as possible to accommodate the high weekend traffic. We completed traffic counts in June and August on East Bad Medicine Lake Road and are waiting for the data to come back to us. The data will help us determine if we need to do more or less maintenance to address the amount of traffic we are experiencing. The township also put a chemical dust control on the first mile of East Bad Medicine Lake Road this past spring. This location receives a higher level of traffic and is exposed to dryer conditions. We will use this experience to determine our next steps with road maintenance.

We held two successful Amnesty Days - one in May and the second in August. Thank you all for complying with appropriate disposal of waste material. A new sign was posted on the gate this spring to clarify what can and cannot be disposed of at the dump. Please continue to comply with these rules. Also, thank you for the recycling. We will learn about the amount of recycling done this year in

our township at the fall county meeting, but I expect our numbers to increase.

The ditches were mowed in late July. With the wet spring, the weeds were doing well. It appears that the mowing was timely so that the weeds did not have the opportunity to reseed. The roads will be monitored this fall to determine if additional steps need to be taken to control weeds.

Always, if you have something to share please contact any one of the supervisors, Tim Holzkamm, Doug Trendera or Lynn Lindow.

On behalf of the Township Board we wish you all a good winter.

Bad Medicine Lake Area Foundation Report

Roger Olsen

Secretary, BMLA Foundation

The BMLA Foundation continues to explore possible shoreline acquisitions to support the aquatic health of Bad Medicine Lake. We are currently working on two projects and will be requesting pledges and donations in the near future.

The BMLAF board is very appreciative of your generous donations in preserving Bad Medicine Lake. Many people for many years will benefit from your generosity.

BMLAA ANNUAL DUES & MEMBERSHIP FORM-CALENDAR YEAR 2015 (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 \$ _____

Minnesota's loons could benefit from BP Gulf payout

The migrating birds suffered oil contamination following 2010 Gulf spill.

Josephine Marcotty Star Tribune

(July 7, 2015)

Minnesota's beloved loons may get a piece of the \$18.7 billion Gulf oil spill settlement announced last week — perhaps as much as \$39 million over the next 15 years. Minnesota and Wisconsin would be the only states outside the Gulf Coast region to share in the payout, largely because scientists here have proved that the birds migrate every year to the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico, and that, since the disastrous spill in 2010, many have returned contaminated with carcinogens and other toxins that they pass onto their eggs.

By federal law, any money that comes to Minnesota from the largest environmental settlement in the nation's history could be used only to increase the population of 12,000 loons nesting here, according to top wildlife officials at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

They have proposed a plan that would preserve and create critical nesting sites on Minnesota's lakes, as well as a program to encourage anglers to stop using lead weights and jigs, a leading cause of death for the birds.

Just how approximately \$18.7 -billion will be distributed isn't clear yet. The settlement, announced last week by the U.S. Department of Justice, would give \$5.5 billion to the Gulf states, provide \$5.9 -billion to settle claims by state and local governments for economic losses, and use \$600 million for other claims and federal expenses related to the spill.

The largest piece — \$8.1 billion, including \$1 billion that BP already paid — is dedicated to restoring natural resource damage, plus an additional \$700 million for future damage that has not yet been identified.

Specifics still must be approved by the federal judge overseeing the case.

But Minnesota wildlife officials said they have been working with experts from the federal agency to estimate loon deaths, and to predict how the population would increase if their plan were implemented.

"The goal is to produce thousands of loons that would not exist otherwise," said Rich Baker, a DNR wildlife biologist.

Loyal birds

Loons are not the only birds from the Upper Midwest that migrate to the Gulf every year. Others include white pelicans, great blue herons, egrets, spotted sandpipers and ducks.

But the state was able to make a clear case for loons, Minnesota's state bird, thanks in part to sophisticated migration research conducted by scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey who were tracking them with radio markers and satellite transmitters. They found that 85 percent of the birds winter in the Gulf. The adults come

back to their nesting sites every year, while the juveniles stay in the Gulf or wander up and down the Atlantic coast for two years before coming north to breed.

"Eventually, they will come back," said Kevin Kenow, a biologist with the USGS in La Crosse, Wis. "They have a strong fidelity to where they were hatched."

The high-tech tracking devices also provide enough detail to detect how deep the birds dive; while in the Gulf they will go to depths of 100 feet or more, all the way to the contaminated bottom. Residue from the spill "is still there, and they are picking it up," said Carrol Henderson, head of the DNR's nongame wildlife division. "They are diving seven or eight times every half-hour."

Testing on dead loons and broken or abandoned eggs — 142 samples in all — showed that 36 were contaminated with carcinogens that come from petroleum.

But it's too soon to determine what effect it has on loons or their offspring because of the bird's long breeding cycle. The young loons who were most exposed in 2010 are only now beginning their decades of breeding.

Run over by boats

The birds face many hazards in Minnesota as well, including such predators as raccoons and skunks, curious humans and lethal motor boat props.

"The two most traumatic weekends for loons are Memorial weekend, when loons are on their nests, and the Fourth of July, when chicks get run over by boats," Henderson said. "We need to realize that we need to share the lakes with them."

And about 10 percent of loons die from lead poisoning from the sinkers and jigs they pick up when they forage for fish or scoop up pebbles they need for their crops. But loons are also a significant danger to themselves because they compete fiercely for nesting sites, a key element in the state's plan to increase their numbers. If approved, the state plan would use the money over the next 15 years to permanently preserve 160 500-foot stretches of natural, sloping shoreline on lakes across the state that the birds use for nesting, the only time they leave the water. That's expensive, because it is often ideal land for recreational development and cabins. In addition, it would pay for 750 nesting platforms that have proved to work in areas where natural sites are gone. While the payouts haven't been confirmed, they could be a significant financial boost for the bird, which now gets very little in the way of dedicated conservation money.

"This is species specific," Henderson said. "It helps to show that we don't want anyone messing with our loons."

Thank You to Courteous Drivers

Thank you to all of you who took the time and made the effort to travel slowly on our dirt roads this summer. For those of us who are out walking our dogs, running or walking on those roads it is greatly appreciated! Please pass on to your visitors and service providers the importance of slowing down when they see pedestrians. Not only is the dust choking, but the rocks thrown up by speeding cars and trucks are dangerous.

Thanks,
Linda Anderson, Sunset Drive

BAD MEDICINE LAKE AREA ASSOCIATION

Monette Lundquist
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Ponsford, MN 56575



Bad Medicine Lake Association Board Members

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