



Lake Washington Improvement Association

*Fall 2016*



WATER  
QUALITY



Don't Just Sit There.....

**VOTE!**





## FALL NEWSLETTER, 2016

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Lake Washington Improvement Assn.  
PO Box 68 Dassel, MN 55325  
[www.lakewashingtonassn.com](http://www.lakewashingtonassn.com)  
Email: [info@lakewashingtonassn.com](mailto:info@lakewashingtonassn.com)

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### Contact Us



#### General Issues:

[info@lakewashingtonassn.com](mailto:info@lakewashingtonassn.com)

#### Membership Changes:

[membership@lakewashingtonassn.com](mailto:membership@lakewashingtonassn.com)

#### Lost and Found:

[lostfound@lakewashingtonassn.com](mailto:lostfound@lakewashingtonassn.com)

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The Lake Washington Newsletter is published three times a year (Spring, Summer and Fall) by the Lake Washington Improvement Association. It is distributed free to lake property owners and friends around Lake Washington.



# End of the Dock

By Ron Bubany



Let's start this off with a quiz.

During the political campaigns we have been hearing a lot about minority groups. There is one group (almost a minority) that is not mentioned. Which is it? (answer below)

This issue of your newsletter begins with an article from guest contributor Scott Mackenthun. Scott is the Hutchinson DNR Fisheries Area Supervisor. You can learn about this year's fish surveys and also about recent decisions which have been made regarding Cormorant depredation.

Your LWIA Board of Directors will be offering a response to this article in next year's spring issue of the newsletter. If you want to contribute thoughts and/or specific information for this response please email them to "info@lakewashingtonassn.com".

Look forward to reading Dave Rathe's update on several important topics, including information on the dreaded ZEBRA MUSSELS.

Watershed improvements continue to progress under the able leadership of Skip Sustacek. He covers this in detail in his Watershed Update article.

Sharon Daniels has taken over responsibility for coordinating the many financial grant requests we initiate each year. This is very important work and be sure to read her synopsis.

And, of course, we include committee reports as usual. These reports might seem routine, but they are important and deserve your study.

Now, enough about us. How about yourselves? The most important activity you should concern yourself with is to....

**GET OUT AND VOTE!**



# A Special DNR Update

By Scott Mackenthun

Greetings LWIA folks!

It was nice meeting some of you at the annual meeting back in early May. Since that time, the Hutchinson Fisheries Crew has been back to the lake a number of times for different types of fishery monitoring activities; biennial fish survey, electrofishing, spring panfish trapnetting, and nearshore seining. The full results are available to anyone who would like to see them; you are welcome to call, email, or stop by our office at any time.

Across the board, net catches were up from 2014 or stable for all species. Walleyes have maintained consistency, coming in at 9.5 fish per gillnet. Bluegills came on strong at 22.1 fish per trapnet. Black crappie were caught at a record high level of 14.5 per gillnet. Northern pike were strong at 4.5 fish per gillnet. Spring electrofishing turned up around 14 bass (largemouth and smallmouth) per hour, not far off the long term average of 20. Seining (50 foot seine covering 100 linear feet) in early August revealed about 135 fish per haul in six stations. Seining shows reproduction and forage; the catch was dominated by young of year yellow perch and bluegill, but also caught white sucker, logperch, johnny darter, banded killifish, madtoms, bluntnose minnow...all sorts of fish. Spring trapnetting in May showed us lots of bluegill and crappie including some real jumbos. We saw some big bluegills flirting with ten inches and some pound and a half black crappies. We did hear some good fishing reports from the lake. While these reports are anecdotal, it is good to hear some positive reports since I heard from LWIA members in May that fishing had been poor.

Double-crested cormorant (DCCO) and American white pelican nesting pair counts continue to be taken by the University of Minnesota every 5 years, the most recent was taken in 2015. One major development with regards to statewide efforts to control DCCOs was a United States district court decision in late May that vacated all United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Public Resource Depredation Order permits. The effect was to stop all DCCO culling efforts around the nation, including in Minnesota. Resolving the issue will require the USFWS to update their Environmental Assessment Worksheet that in the court's opinion and ruling, were not properly addressed. The lawsuit that brought about this decision was a point I briefly touched on during my presentation at the annual meeting in May. Any decision to control DCCOs will be held to the highest scientific and legal standard when assessing proof of adverse impacts to public sport fish resources. The bottom line for Washington has been this: even in previous sampling years with low fish abundance, the net catches have not dipped below expected or normal range values.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide updates to the group. I'm looking forward to working with the LWIA and their respective committees. Fishing prospects on Washington look really good following this spring and summer's net catches. I encourage LWIA folks to get out, wet a line, and don't forget to bring the next generation along!

Best regards,  
Scott Mackenthun  
Hutchinson DNR Fisheries Area Supervisor



# Watercraft Inspection, Zebra Mussels and Water Quality

By Dave Rathe

## Watercraft Inspection



Our I-LIDS system (Internet – Landing Installed Device Sensor) continues to provide boater Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) awareness at Ellsworth landing. The system provides an audio message reminding boaters to clean, drain and inspect their watercraft prior to launching or leaving the landing. A 15 sec video of a watercraft launch is recorded to inspect for vegetation hanging off the watercraft or boat trailer, which is non-compliant per MN DNR regulations.

The I-LIDS system was installed early this summer on the West side of the launch area. It has since been moved to the East side of the area with a concrete foundation. The concrete base has improved the stability of the whole system as well as improved the clarity of the recorded video. At the same time the system was moved, an LED light was added to the housing. This LED now provides enough light to record video after dark.

To date there have been over 3,000 videos recorded. There have not been any obvious situations where a boat was launched with vegetation. The I-LIDS system will be removed this fall and reinstalled next spring. The plan for next year is to add a magnetic sensor to improve vehicle/watercraft sensing. The system currently uses motion detection to sense vehicle/watercraft.

Thanks to Skip Sustacek, Tom Hauer, and Mike Wosmek for helping install the new footings for the I-LIDS system.

## Zebra Mussels



Last year zebra mussels were found in Lake Stella upstream from Lake Washington. Because of this development, the LWIA installed 11 zebra mussel monitoring plates (also called settlement plates or “motels”) around Lake Washington.

This September Mike Wosmek and Dave Rathe removed, inspected and cleaned the monitoring plates. Three zebra mussels were found on two monitoring plates from the Northwest corner of Lake Washington. No other monitoring plates were found to have zebra mussels. One was approximately 1/2 inch long (shown in photo) and the other two were approximately 3/8 inch long.

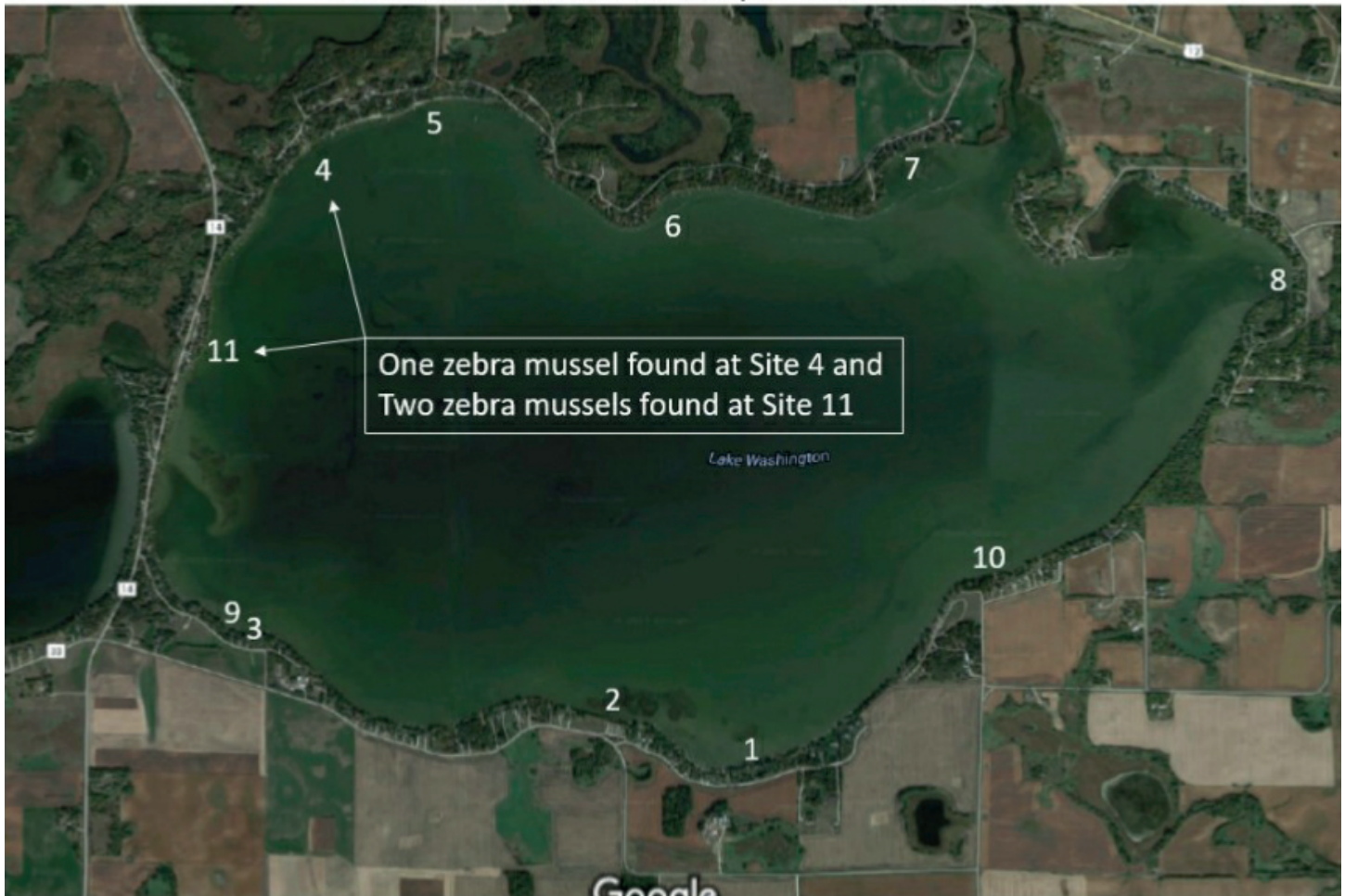


Lake Stella also installed monitoring plates this year. They found from 30 to 100 zebra mussels on each plate.

Remember to inspect docks and boat lifts for zebra mussels when removing them from the water this fall. You are welcome to notify the MN DNR if you find zebra mussels on your dock or boat lift. However, Tim Plude MN DNR AIS specialist has already been informed that zebra mussels have been found in Lake Washington. Also, remember per MN DNR rules: If you plan to move a dock, lift or other water equipment from one lake or river to another, all visible zebra mussels, faucet snails, and aquatic plants must be removed whether they are dead or alive. You may not transport equipment with prohibited invasive species or aquatic plants attached. The equipment must be out of the water for 21 days before it can be placed in another water body.

## Water Quality (continued)

Zebra Mussel Settlement Sampler Locations 2016



### Water Quality and Water Clarity:

Lake Washington water is sampled and analyzed monthly at the deepest part of the lake for phosphorus (nutrients in the water) and chlorophyll-a (a measure of algae concentration). RMB Environmental Labs provides our water quality analysis.

Results from 2016 RMB testing are:

<i>TP</i>	= Total phosphorus	33.5
<i>ChlA</i>	= Total chlorophyll-a	11.2
<i>Secchi Ft.</i>	= Clarity in feet	05.0
<i>TSI Phos.</i>	= Tropic State Index for phosphorus	54.3
<i>TSI ChlA</i>	= Tropic State Index for chlorophyll-a	48.5
<i>TSI Secchi Ft.</i>	= Tropic State Index for clarity	54.3
<i>TSI Avg.</i>	= Tropic State Index: A measure of overall lake nutrients (Ave of <i>TSI Phos.</i> + <i>TSI ChlA</i> + <i>TSI Secchi Ft.</i> )	52.3

Our lake water is also tested for clarity twice a month (via secchi disc readings) at 5 locations. This year's clarity test average was 4.7 feet as opposed to last year, which was 4.9 feet.

Thanks to Dean Shaner, Dan Faust, Skip Sustacek, and Ken Klehr for collecting water samples and measuring water clarity this year.

# Watershed Update

By Skip Sustacek

Fall is here and the grass is green. The lake is up about 8" to 10". The watershed is working overtime to relieve water on land. We have had a very different summer. The good thing is we are all OK and have had no bad storms.

The first project we did on 215<sup>th</sup> St seems to be a success. A 90 degree culvert has been placed there and it's cleaning the water flow very well. The people in that area are very pleased.



On 218<sup>th</sup> St, east of the campground, we are putting a new style intake in the field (see picture). It has been donated on a trial basis by the Land and Water Dept. of Meeker County. These are a new style of intake of which we have no information on performance. The land owner is happy to have us do this. It's in the field with 10" tile which runs under 218<sup>th</sup> St and then goes to the lake. This project would now be complete but for the fact that there is currently 10" of water in the corn field.



On 213<sup>th</sup> St east of Ellsworth Landing at 69300 we are working with the existing intake in the roadside ditch. We have been with the owners of the farm land. When this year's crop has been harvested we will proceed to evaluate the "drop" from the field to the ditch which holds the intake. We are thinking by late fall we can move forward to make adjustments to clarify water entering the lake. This intake is on the south side of 213<sup>th</sup> St and water runs under the road and then to the lake.

We are hoping to now move on and start studying the north side of the lake before the snow falls. Maybe!

## THE DARWIN TAVERN

320-693-2011

### OPEN:

**Monday - Saturday**    **7 AM to close**  
**Sunday**                    **7 AM to 7 PM**

**! Breakfast served until 11 AM every day.**

**! Meat raffle on Saturdays at 5:30 PM**

**! Dinner Specials every Friday & Saturday night.**





# LWIA Grants 2016-2017

*By Sharon Daniels*

Ken Klehr headed up obtaining grants over the past years, and has done a wonderful job of doing so. The grant dollars help support our efforts for projects to protect and preserve Lake Washington for our and future generations use.

Ken resigned from the board this past summer due to personal reasons. Please extend a "Thank you" to Ken when you see him, as his workmanship was one of the best in obtaining grant money for LWIA.

I am new to the board this year, and took on the responsibility to continue with the grant application process. Over the years grants and funding has been offered by Meeker County, State of MN, Meeker County Soil and Water Conservation District, Crow River Organization of Waters, Meeker County AIS Committee, and local townships as Ellsworth. I will continue to process applications for grant money from these entities, as well as any new funding becomes available. The majority of grants I will be working with, as in the past, are matching grants that require a 50% match. I am open to any suggestions or opportunities in regards to funding or grant applications and their processing. If you have an opportunity to say "thank you" to those that provided funds as listed above, please do so. We need their continued support to maintain lake quality for Lake Washington.

LWIA Grant Committee  
Sharon Daniels  
320-583-4642  
[sdaniels@grdaniels.com](mailto:sdaniels@grdaniels.com)

## Thanks for Your Support!

*By Steve Ullom*

**A Big THANK YOU to local businesses that supported LWIA: below is a list of those businesses that donated more than 80 door prizes given away at the Pot Luck Dinner on August 12. Take time to look through the list and seriously consider thanking them by being a customer.**

**Sears – Hutchinson, Econofoods-Litchfield, Dassel Coop, Perennial Banks-Darwin/Dassel, Papa D's Coffee-Dassel, Ron's Max Fuel-Dassel, Landscape Concepts- Hutchinson, DC Auto Parts-Dassel, Red Rooster Foods-Dassel, Northern Links-Hutchinson, Benny's Meat Market-Hutchinson, Runnings-Litchfield, B & B Sports-Hutchinson, Darwin Liquors-Darwin, Lake Region Insurance-Cokato, Darwin Monument-Darwin, Dassel Bakery-Dassel, Jimmy's Pizza-Dassel, Darwin Tavern-Darwin, Schmitty's Station-Darwin.**

**When given the chance, please personally thank them for their support.**



# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## Shoreline Captains/Membership Committee

By Cathy Klehr

Thanks to all who have renewed their membership. To recognize these members we have a listing on our web site ([www.lakewashingtonassn.com](http://www.lakewashingtonassn.com)) and update monthly throughout the year. Currently we have 209 paid members. Your continued support is appreciated and needed in our effort to keep our Lake Washington clean and healthy for **ALL** to enjoy throughout the year.

If you have not paid dues for this year, you can still do so by mailing a check for \$50 to LWIA, Box 68, Dassel, Mn. 55325. We all need to work together in supporting our lake needs.

Special Thanks to the Shoreline Captains for all the time and effort they put into reaching out to lake residents:

Sheryl Faust	Jenny Kjell	John Sandstede	Nancy Finkenaur
Jenna O'Brien	Grace Brinkman	Jim Wendling	Mary Jo Lyke
Bob Paulson	Jim Barnes	Cathy Klehr	Sandy, Mike Wosmek
Phil Flores	Sharon, Gary Daniels	Christine, Steve Ullom	Steve Knapp
John Bartz	Connie Paulson	Ruth, John Fink	Jo Lukes

For changes of address, phone, e-mail or any other information we should be aware of, please contact us at [membership@lakewashingtonassn.com](mailto:membership@lakewashingtonassn.com)



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[rogness@hutchtel.net](mailto:rogness@hutchtel.net)

Each Office Independently Owned and Operated

# COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)

## FINANCE / FUND RAISING COMMITTEE

By Lyle Walker

As the summer season winds down, following is some financial information covering the season:

- 1) Memberships total 209, generating \$10,450 for the Association. Memberships increased by six over the same date in 2015.
- 2) Invasive Species donations total \$4,430 from 99 members.
- 3) \$1,885 has been donated to the Dassel Fire Department through the Association by 68 members. This amount will be forwarded to the Fire Department in October.
- 4) There are no unpaid bills on hand.
- 5) Total funds on hand as of September 30 are \$113,287.

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

By Sandy Wosmek

Fall has arrived ----- the lake is pretty quiet. Hope all had a fantastic summer and the fall and winter will be good to us. Hopefully a large majority of you were able to join us for the pork chop meal and annual meeting in May or the pot luck in August. Dates to remember for 2017 are -----

Saturday, May 6      Pork chop meal and annual meeting  
Saturday, August 5      Pot luck

Until next year----- **HAVE A GREAT WINTER!!!!!!!**

<h1><b>DARWIN MUNICIPAL LIQUOR STORE</b></h1>		
<p>LOCATED ON HWY 12 NEXT TO OUTPOST GAS STATION IN DARWIN</p> <p>OPEN: MON-THUR 9am-9pm FRI-SAT 9am-10pm</p>		
<p><b>HOLIDAY HOURS:</b></p> <p>THANKSGIVING EVE: 9AM-9PM THANKSGIVING: CLOSED CHRISTMAS EVE: 9AM-6PM NEW YEARS EVE: 9-8PM</p>	<p><b>BEER OF THE MONTH</b></p> <p>BREAST CANCER AWARENESS</p> <p>MICH ULTRA 24PK 12oz CANS \$18.99</p>	<p><b>WINE OF THE MONTH</b></p> <p>ALL APOTHIC WINES \$9.99</p>
<p><b>(320) 693-2586</b></p>		<p><b>darwinliquor@gmail.com</b></p>





## **RE-ELECT Commissioner Mike Housman Meeker County — 4th District**

*(Kingston Township, City of Kingston, Dassel Township, and the City of Dassel)*

Thank you for trusting me in the last election to be your county commissioner. The last four years I have worked hard to put common sense and sound business principles into our county management. Here are some things that have been accomplished: major improvements to road systems; adoption of new technology to improve worker productivity; transparency and term limits for county boards and committees; and better financial accountability and oversight. Additionally, we are in the middle of an internal reorganization that will lead to greater efficiency and improved service to our citizens. However, my greatest privilege has been helping citizens when they have challenges with their local government. As a business owner and family man, I would like to continue advocating for our shared values that have made this country great. Since this is not a career, this will be my second and final term before heading back to the private sector full time.

Feel free to contact me anytime with questions or concerns.

### **I need your support!**

### **Vote for Housman on November 8th.**

Home: (320) 275-0121  
Cell: (612) 386-6785  
[mike@vote4housman.com](mailto:mike@vote4housman.com)



[/Vote4Housman](#)



[@MikeHousmanJr](#)

**VOTE FOR MIKE**  
**Housman**  
**COUNTY COMMISSIONER**  
[www.vote4housman.com](http://www.vote4housman.com)

Paid for by the candidate on his own behalf