



Lake Washington Improvement Association

Spring 2019



*Coming This Spring!
Walleye Population and Angler Study
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SPRING NEWSLETTER, 2019

Lake Washington Improvement Assn.
PO Box 68 Dassel, MN 55325
www.lakewashingtonassn.com
Email: info@lakewashingtonassn.com

Contact Us



General Issues:

info@lakewashingtonassn.com

Membership Changes:

membership@lakewashingtonassn.com

Lost and Found:

lostfound@lakewashingtonassn.com

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.



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End Of The Dock

By Steve Grotbo, President

The elections to the board are held every year at the annual pork chop dinner on [May 4th](#). During the elections, a third of the board is voted in for a three year term that starts immediately after the election. Following that, the officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasure) are voted in at the next board meeting. The board meets each month alternating between the [first Tuesday](#) and [Thursday](#) of the month from February to October at the Dassel Rod and Gun Club. The board meetings start promptly at 7 PM and last about an hour. Each board member chooses which committee(s) to be part of and contributes in this area to improve the quality of the lake for all the members.

For this season, we have four positions open and three people running, so not much of an election yet. Please let any board member know if you wish to be on the ballot. We try to run a fair election, but only those in attendance at the annual pork chop dinner can vote (any member can win). So far the people running are:

- 1) Ron Bubany (incumbent)
- 2) Sharon Daniels (incumbent)
- 3) Cindy Hewitt

4) Your Name Here

Tom Hauer joined the board in 2011 and is not seeking another term. Dean Shaner is also leaving the board after being on since 2016. We thank Tom and Dean for all of the help over the many years.

A lot of activity is happening this season. Be sure to read the newsletters, check your email, and look on Facebook to keep caught up on what is happening. Here are some highlights.

- Lake map is now complete and being used.
 - o DNR will be making this data available to public.
 - o Watershed committee is using data to know where to focus efforts.
 - o A laminated map will be provided to dues paying members later this spring..
- Vegetation committee is focusing where milfoil was found on the lake.
- Lake Washington sponsored U of M Zebra Mussel research is coming to conclusion.
- Supporting "Walleye Population Estimate and Angler Study".

LWIA's primary objective is to protect and preserve Lake Washington for current and future generations to enjoy. With that in mind, if you have any suggestions or projects to take on, please feel free to contact any board member.



Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center

Zebra Mussel Research

By Steve Ullom

The Lake Washington Improvement Association of Meeker County has been supporting the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center at the University of Minnesota, through donations and by providing samples of zebra mussels we have collected from our lake. Dr. Mike McCartney, PHD is no longer with the UM but the university research continues and they announced (2018 Research Report) completion of a draft of zebra mussel genome and are now in the process of scaffolding the assembly to search for genes that can be targeted for control.

For more information about this project and MAISRC research of Invasive plants, invertebrates, and fish go to (www.maisrc.umn.edu).

IT'S UP TO YOU

As a reminder to members of Lake Washington Community be aware that it is our responsibility to keep our lake and lakeshores free from trash. Please make every effort to not allow paper, plastics, or other trash to be dropped, blown or left in or around the lake.

Meanwhile, LWIA is looking at ways to better control trash at the Ellsworth Landing, please join us in doing your part.

Thank You.

!!!ANNUAL ELECTION!!!

Lake Washington Improvement Association of Meeker County Board of Directors Annual Election:

This year three year terms are up for Sharon Daniels, Ron Bubany, Tom Hauer, and Dean Shaner.

Sharon and Ron have agreed to remain on the board for another three year term.

A special thank you to: Tom Hauer for his years of volunteer service to LWIA. He has worked on the Vegetation, Water Quality, I-LIDS, Watercraft inspections, and Communication/Public Relations committees. Also to Dean Shaner for his knowledge, skills, and advocacy on the area Cormorant Committee.

At this time Cindy Hewitt has expressed interest in joining the LWIA Board of Directors. We need one more.

The formal election will occur at the Annual Members Meeting/Pork Chop Dinner on May 4, 2019.

Walleye Population Estimate and Angler Study

By Tanner Stevens, DNR Assistant Area Supervisor



I have some exciting news to pass along. The Hutchinson office has done an angler creel survey on the Washington Chain in 1981 and 2001. These surveys involve a clerk interviewing anglers and counting boats on the lake to estimate fishing pressure and angler catch and harvest. We get useful information on user demographics as well as angler satisfaction and preferences (depending on if/what questions are asked) from these surveys. The 2001 creel also included a basic walleye population estimate, which was done at one of the highest catch rates in the lake's history of survey by MN DNR. Late last year, our office put together a project proposal to do another creel and walleye population estimate and thought we might be funded in 2020 or 2021, **but it got placed on the fast track and was recommended for funding in 2019**. Our Section of Fisheries has talked in the last half a year about attempting to do more creel surveys since we don't have a lot of special project dollars to allocate towards them. Creels are the focus at the moment, I can't guarantee that will be a long-lived position within the agency since it's tied directly to budget, but in the meantime, it works to our advantage as we can collect some great data.

Our interest in a walleye population estimate and an angler creel survey stems from an interest in getting a better understanding of walleye population dynamics and angler harvest. With recent infestations of zebra mussels and a recent downward trend in walleye gill net catch, information collected during this project will be used to estimate exploitation of the walleye population, estimate angler harvest, collect population density at lower relative abundance levels, and understand movement throughout the chain. This information will guide future management decisions for the Washington Lake Chain.

Our staff is excited to take this project on and there will be a nice data pool collected. We will be doing the angler creel survey in spring 2019 through end of winter 2020 (with a small break in the fall) and running the walleye population estimate by marking fish with external tags in 2019, 2020, and 2021 and collecting recaptures with netting, electro fishing, and utilizing angler tag reports in the creel. It's come along rapidly, and in another two months' time, our work will begin.

A very important part of the walleye population estimate will be getting tag returns from anglers for fish they harvested. We are asking people to not only report any tags, but also spread the word to their friends and family about the tags. The tags look just like duck bands and people can keep them as a memento if they want. You do not have to turn them in, only report the tag number, lake, and if you harvested the fish. This will give us all the data we need.

**Volunteers wanted
who are interested
in helping with the
walleye capture**

We will also be looking for volunteers that are interested in the walleye capture and marking portion of the study that begins this spring; we'll be doing some trap netting and electro fishing to collect and tag fish. Since we want as many recaptures as possible over the three year study, we plan to be very active this spring on the chain to mark as many fish as we can.

Certainly, members of LWIA are encouraged to join us and help if interested and we'd like to hear how your encounters are with the creel clerk while fishing.

Should you have any questions about this study, either the angler creel or the walleye population estimate, please feel free to call, email, or drop by.

2019 Approved Grant Program

By Sharon Daniels, Grant Coordinator

Greetings!

In the fall of 2018 we applied for the 2019 grant programs with Meeker County Association of Lakes (MCAL) and the Meeker County Task Force for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). These two organizations held individual meetings in December and had robust discussions about the entries, the granting process, and how each of the proposals addressed issues facing the county. Grants were then awarded to various lake associations. We are very grateful to both of these organizations for allowing us these funds!

Lake Washington Improvement Association was awarded grants of:

- ** MCAL grant for \$5,000.00 for Mapping/Sediment Control Projects in 2019.
- ** AIS grant for three items in 2019:
 - 1) Funds to conduct maintenance of I-LIDS on Ellsworth Landing for \$2,200.00.
 - 2) To chemically treat Eurasian water milfoil for \$8,800.00.
 - 3) Funds for AIS education for \$1,500.00.

We will be using these grants to continue the mapping process we began in 2018, to work on sediment control issues, education of AIS, and to help prevent or control the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) such as milfoil, zebra mussels, spiny water fleas, starry stonewort, etc. Volunteers will continue to do monthly water quality testing, I-LIDS maintenance, along with zebra mussel inspections, milfoil monitoring and treatment as needed, tile inlet inspections, buffer strips as necessary, and holding pond maintenance. There are costs to complete these projects and that is why these grants are so important to LWIA. Should anyone have questions in regards to permits, treatments, etc., you may contact a MN DNR AIS specialist at 320-234-2550 x238 or by email at eric.katzenmeyer@state.mn.us.

To all the volunteers that help work on projects during 2019, please email me your amount of "in-kind" volunteer hours as well as any receipts for expenses (including gas and meals for projects) as soon as a project is completed. My email address: sdaniels@grdaniels.com. I will then forward the receipts to MCAL and or AIS for reimbursement.

Thanks! to all those that volunteer their time and efforts to keep our lake at its best!

A Lake Washington Fact

A Letter From Carl LaPlante

Sirs,

I am sitting in the living room of my mother-in-law, Jeanette Servin, on the NW shore of Lake Washington, enjoying my last coffee of 2018 and looking at your "Lake Washington 2018 directory" while it is snowing outside. I thought you might be interested in another "Lake Washington Fact."

If people stood up squeezed in within 1 square foot per person on the ice, and the ice could hold them, Lake Washington could hold a little more than 1/3 of the population of the United States (2639 acres * 43560 sq ft = 114,954,840 people).

Carl LaPlante

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The Art of Information Engineering



Watershed Report

By Skip Sustacek

I will be working with Dave Rathe as he takes water samples of the lake and we take water samples of watershed that enters the lake. We want to control nitrogen and suspended solids. This is important to have a general quality of water in the lake.

Remember, a portion of your membership dues will go to covering the cost of this extra testing. But it's a necessity that we do this for our lake. Monitor it and keeping track give us facts to work with.

Thank you all!

Report to us the Good or Bad.

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The advertisement features a light green background with a decorative vine on the left side. The main text is in a dark brown, serif font. Below the text is a photograph of a rustic log cabin with a green door and windows, surrounded by a wooden fence and some plants.

Thank You

By Michael McCartney, U of M Genomic Center



Dear Members,

I would like to personally thank the Lake Washington Improvement Association for your generous support of our zebra mussel research program. We (the UM Genomic Center, MN Supercomputing Institute, and I) used it on the genome project, to sequence the genes that zebra mussels use to grow and harden their shells. This work is key to understanding why zebra mussels grow thin shells and do not thrive in low-calcium water (a major weakness).

Your donation also partially funded work on the genes that control growth of “byssal threads.” These are the fibers that attach to boats, docks, lifts and lake bottoms, allowing zebra mussels to spread so effectively. Growth of shells and byssal threads are two targets for biocontrol, and I am committed to seeing that the genome project pushes biocontrol research forward. In your Summer Newsletter, I will update you in more detail on this and other zebra mussel research progress.

Thanks again and enjoy springtime!

All the best, Michael McCartney

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Zebra Mussels

By Dave Rathe

Mike Wosmek plans to install the zebra mussel “hotels” (settlement plates) in the same locations as last year. We expect to see an even larger population of zebra mussels this year on the hotels, docks, and equipment. It might be another few years before the zebra mussel population flattens out in Lake Washington. It will depend on food availability and colonizing habitat.

Unfortunately, there is currently no zebra mussel management approach applicable to Lake Washington available.

Planned Zebra Mussel “Hotel” Locations 2019



Instead of counting each individual zebra mussel on the hotels at the end of the summer, we plan to just take a photo of the hotels. It was very arduous counting zebra mussels last year and took a lot of time. My eyes still hurt.



Here's an interesting way to find mussels – ed.

Minnesota DNR Conservation Officer Julie Siems uses K-9 officer Brady to detect zebra mussels in a boat at the Pike Lake boat landing north of Duluth, MN – Thursday morning, May 4, 2017.

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Water Quality Testing

By Dave Rathe

We are planning to take water samples starting mid-May through mid-September. The samples will be analyzed for Chlorophyll-a and Total Phosphorus. These two parameters measure the amount of algae and nutrients in the lake water. The analysis will be performed by RMB Environmental Labs out of Detroit Lakes, MN.

We also plan to conduct water clarity tests twice per month. It will be interesting to see if the water is as clear as or clearer than last spring when we were able to see the Secchi disk down to 14.5 feet. At the end of the summer all data collected will be submitted to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Minnesota State Fishing Records

By Ron Bubany

If you are after big fish this summer, then you should take a shot at one of the Minnesota state records. Here is a summary for some of the fish to be found in our lake:

TYPE	Pounds	Ounces
Bass, Largemouth	8	15
Bass, Smallmouth	8	0
Bowfin	12	9
Bullhead, Black	3	13
Bullhead, Brown	7	1
Carp	55	5
Crappie, Black	5	0
Crappie, White	3	15
Perch	3	4
Northern Pike	45	12
Sunfish, Bluegill	2	13
Sunfish, Green	1	4
Sunfish, Pumpkinseed	1	5
Walleye	17	8

Complete details can be found at <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fishing/staterecords.html>

I-LIDS (Internet – Landing Installed Device Sensor)

By Dave Rathe



We are in the process of renewing the MN DNR Special Use Permit allowing the I-LIDS system to be installed at Ellsworth landing. We are waiting for the last signature from MN DNR Parks & Trails out of Spicer MN.

Installation of the system will take place in May and will be removed in November depending of course on weather and ice conditions.

We believe the I-LIDS system has been effective in improving boater compliance to MN DNR rules regarding boat decontamination prior to launching and prior to leaving the landing. Boaters are reminded via audio messages to clean weeds and debris from their boats, as well as drain their boat, live wells and bait wells, keep all drain plugs out while traveling, and dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.

Environmental Sentry Protection has updated the firmware in the system this winter as well as fixed the system's speaker, which failed a couple of weeks before the end of the season last year. The firmware update is expected to reduce the number of videos capturing activity other than boat launches.



Committee Reports

SHORELINE CAPTAINS/MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

By Cathy Klehr

Happy Spring! Board members have been holding monthly meetings and are getting ready for lake projects. Your membership to Lake Washington Improvement Association is needed and appreciated to continually maintain the quality and beauty of our lake. Please take time to fill out the **enclosed Membership Registration Form** and return it in the envelope provided. Thank You for your support.

Shoreline Captains will be handing out lake maps to each resident this summer and a laminated map to each paid member. Special Thanks to all for their time and effort in pulling this project together.

If you are interested in **volunteering your time** in any way, please contact me (see link below) or any board member. You can also attend our annual Shoreline Captain's Kickoff meeting on May 18th.

For changes of address, phone, e-mail or any other information, please contact us at membership@lakewashingtonassn.com

FINANCE / FUND RAISING COMMITTEE

By Lyle Walker

There has been little financial activity since the end of the season last fall. That will change now with the arrival of spring and 2019 membership renewals along with the beginning of the many activities that are the Lake Association. We begin this season in a strong financial position with total funds of \$125,500.



Committee Reports (continued)

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

By Sandy Wosmek

As I write this article on Saturday, [March 9th](#) ----- weather prediction "winter storm", 6 to 12 inches of snow.

Sounds just great ----- can't believe we are talking spring right around the corner and talking about lake weather.

We had our first lake board meeting of 2019. Some 2019 details were discussed.

- ANNUAL PORK CHOP DINNER -- [Saturday, May 4, 2019](#) -- Dassel Rod and Gun Club
- Social Hour -- 5pm (please bring your own refreshments)
- Dinner -- 6pm Free pork chop, bean casserole, coleslaw, potato chips, bread, brownies, coffee and koolaid.
- Program -- 6:30pm Committee reports, Speaker?????, open discussion.
- Meat Raffle -- Schroeder Meats furnishing chops and meat trays for raffle.

Hope to see many of you at the annual meeting.

Date to save -- [Saturday, August 3, 2019](#) -- Pot luck

B & B Sports in Hutchinson is once again paying for the pork chops for us. PLEASE thank them when doing business with them.

