



Summer 2015

ME? A PROBLEM? COME ON MAN!
(See Page 5)



Cormorant Report



Invasive Species



Road Inspections



Fishing Contest

The Monster of The Lake

(by Grandpa)

Pay attention everybody, and listen to my tale
Of an ancient deadly monster, much larger than a whale.
Gather closely all around me and eat your camper's cake
While I tell you all the story of the Monster of the Lake.

A long time ago before we all lived here
There was nothing but the lakeshore and a few whitetail deer.
All seemed nice and peaceful, above Lake Washington
But underneath the waters was a horror just begun.

Among the early settlers to the shores of Washington
Was a strong German farmer named Bruno Zimmermun.
He liked to walk the shoreline in the early morning sun
But on one cloudy dreary day he found good cause to run.

It started with a ripple, way out upon the lake
So innocent, so fragile, just a frothy wake.
But then a dark shape lifted to the surface of the sea
The beginning of a legend was just about to be.

Bruno watched and trembled as the monster did appear
He raised his gun to fire in an awful state of fear.
He quickly pulled the trigger, did Bruno Zimmermun
The bullet hit the monster and the horror was begun.

The settlers living on the lake knew something had gone wrong
When Bruno didn't show up and was missing all day long.
They searched for poor old Bruno in the waters of the lake
But never found a hide nor hair, just a softly fading wake.

For many years the lake was calm though settlers told the tale
Of Bruno and the monster, even bigger than a whale.
Only now and then as years went by did someone disappear
And people blamed the legend of Bruno's bout with fear.

Even now today the story goes, there is an awful fate
For careless strollers in the morn who see a rippled wake.
So heed this story, stay on the shore and keep your eyes awake
For the ripple in the water and the Monster of the Lake.

SUMMER NEWSLETTER, 2015

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watershed@lakewashingtonassn.com

Lost and found
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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.



5 Rick Fernstrom explains the latest fish survey statistics.



8 Steve Ullom summarizes the membership survey results.



11 Latest water quality data.



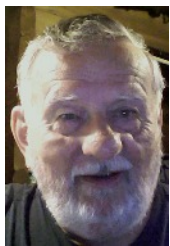
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End of the Dock

Ron Bubany, Editor



For fifteen years or so I have regaled the grand kids with tales of the Lake Washington Monster. For the first few years they actually believed me. Later, they played along and we had many great times arguing about the monster's existence. I even went so far as to resort to poetry.

As you probably noticed, I have published the poem in the newsletter. Perhaps your kids or grand kids will enjoy the tradition as mine have!

By the way, Zimmermun is not a real German name, but Zimmerman won't rhyme with Washington!

Just about anyone you meet around our lake will opine that the cormorants and pelicans are a problem. The opinions are subjective to be sure, but we have all seen the birds come and go. And, we aren't having the fishing successes we used to enjoy. It always amazes me how so many direct observations can disagree so dramatically from the statistical analyses performed by the DNR.

Our own Rick Fernstrom and his cormorant team have met once again with the DNR in an attempt to sort out the facts and review the latest survey information. In this issue you can read Rick's summary of the discussions and also his own analysis as to what the numbers really mean. Look up the word "reactive" in the dictionary to be sure you can understand what Rick has to say.

Never mind. I've looked up the Webster definition for you:

"Reactive" – 'done in response to a problem or situation : reacting to problems when they occur instead of doing something to prevent them'

Also in this issue, Skip Sustacek of the Watershed Committee reports on the status of our new holding pond. The pond was completed last summer and has already been challenged this spring with the heavy rainfalls we have experienced. Nice going Skip and your gang!

Steve Ullom has submitted the final report on the membership survey. In his article Steve summarizes the activities your Lake Association undertakes in response to the survey issues. He then goes on to summarize all of the benefits you are realizing as members (and non-members) of the Lake Washington Improvement Association.

If you are not a member, you need to be!

Ken Klehr, in addition to his existing responsibilities, has taken on the important task of monitoring the quality status of our lake water. In this issue you can read his update on the initial results the Water Quality team has obtained so far this summer.

And there's more! I am taking the liberty of organizing the first (and possibly last) Lake Washington summer fishing contest. Read about it later on in the newsletter.



A Reactive Approach to Cormorants. Is that good?

Rick Fernstrom explains...

On May 21, 2015, Ken Klehr, Rick Fernstrom, Dean Shaner, and George Kraemer (Collinwood) met with the DNR at the Hutchinson office to discuss the 2014 Lake Washington fish survey and impact of cormorants on area fish populations within the “halo of lakes” surrounding Pigeon Lake on hwy 15 (map included).

The meeting was attended by Lee Sundmark, Skip Wright, Brian Shultz, and Bethany Bethke from the DNR. Lee and Bethany presented a variety of data showing fish trends throughout the area to help explain the changes that are being observed. The DNR conclusion was stated that “no cormorant impact could be pulled from the data.”



Some facts:

- 1) The 2014 DNR fish survey showed the fish population in Lake Washington consumed daily by cormorants and pelicans (0 – 14 inches) decreased by 38% since the last fish survey in 2012.
- 2) The 2014 DNR fish survey showed the fish population in Lake Washington NOT consumed daily by cormorants and pelicans (>15 inches) increased by 66% since the last fish survey in 2012.
- 3) Cormorant nesting pair count decreased by 12% between 2013 and 2015.
- 4) Pelican nesting pair count decreased by 38% between 2012 and 2015.
- 5) The DNR will conduct another fish survey on Lake Washington in 2016.
- 6) The DNR stands by the Commissioner’s letter to the LWIA that cormorant control will *not be considered* until the walleye gill net abundance is below the 25th percentile (3.22 fish/gill net) for two or more standard surveys.

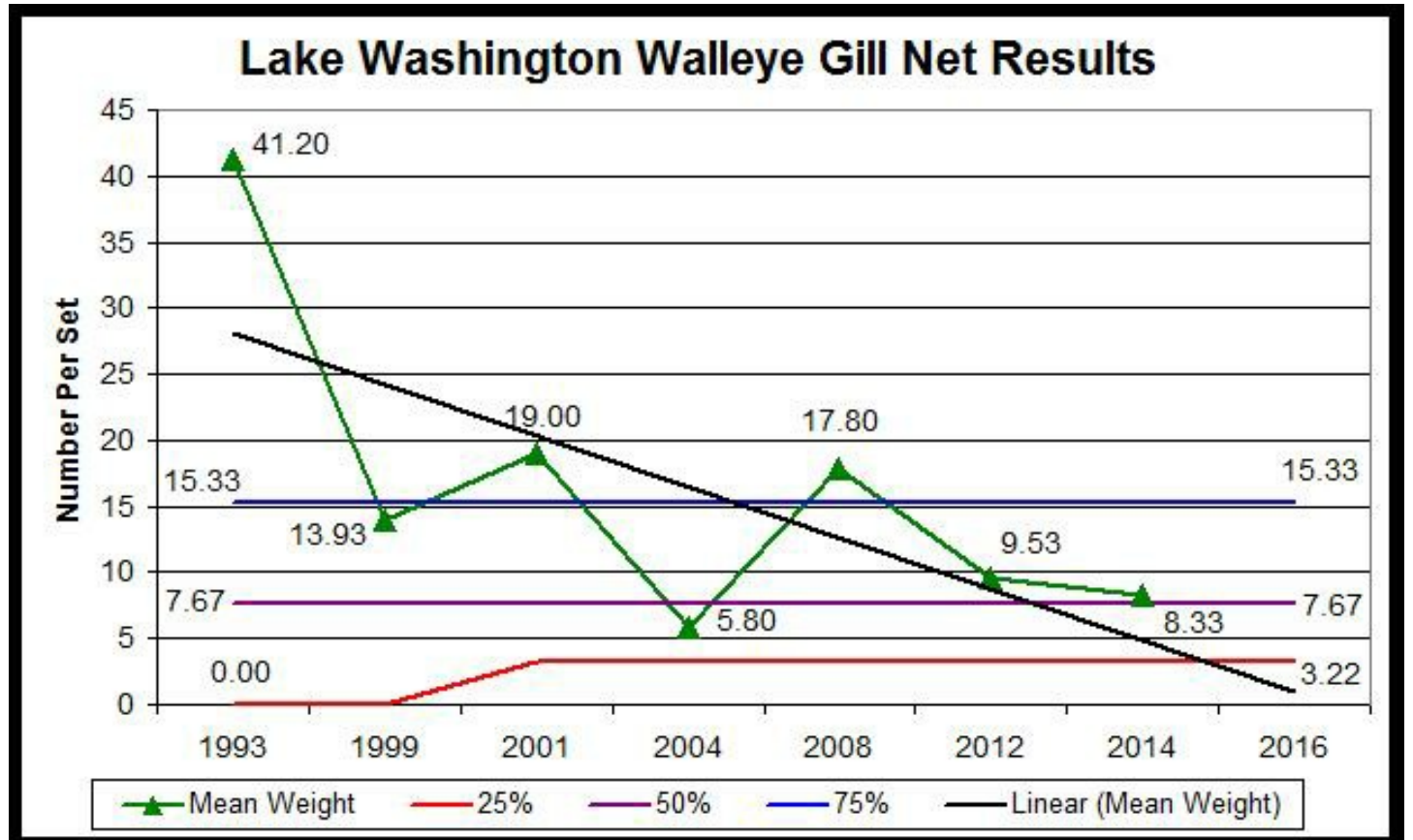
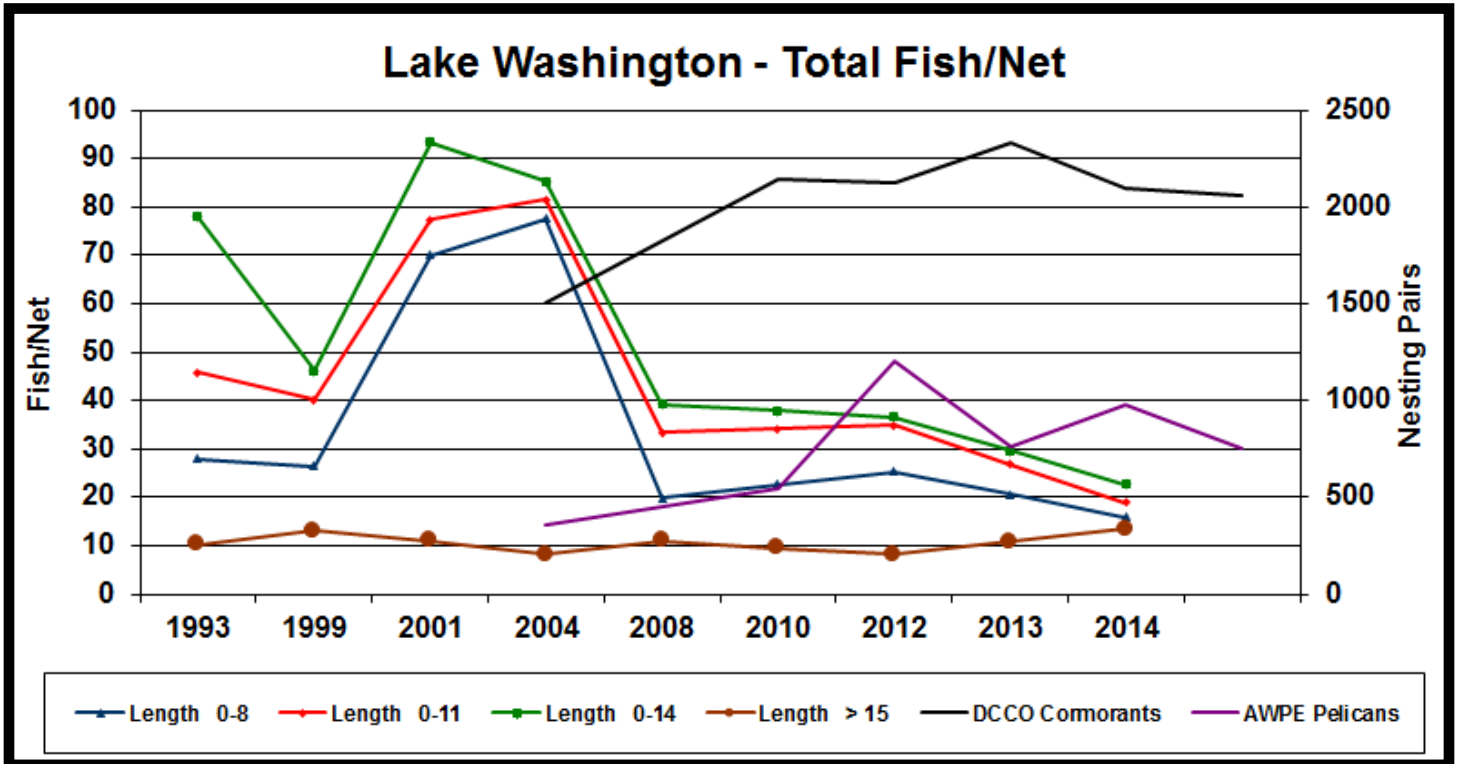
...the DNR position is to support Lake Washington as a feed point for the Pigeon Lake rookery...

Fact number (6) needs to be explained. The Lake Washington walleye gill net abundance has not been below 3.22 fish/gill net since 1957 when measured at 2.2 fish/gill net. The 2014 fish survey results showed walleye at 8.33 fish/gill net, down 12.6% from the 2012 fish survey at 9.53 fish/gill net. The target set by the DNR Commissioner to *consider* controlling cormorants will never be achieved unless walleye populations are depleted to an all time low for two consecutive years.

This is a reactive rather than proactive approach and with walleye stocking every other year it appears the DNR position is to support Lake Washington as a feed point for the Pigeon Lake rookery along with other lakes within the “halo of lakes.”

A Reactive Approach to Cormorants (continued)

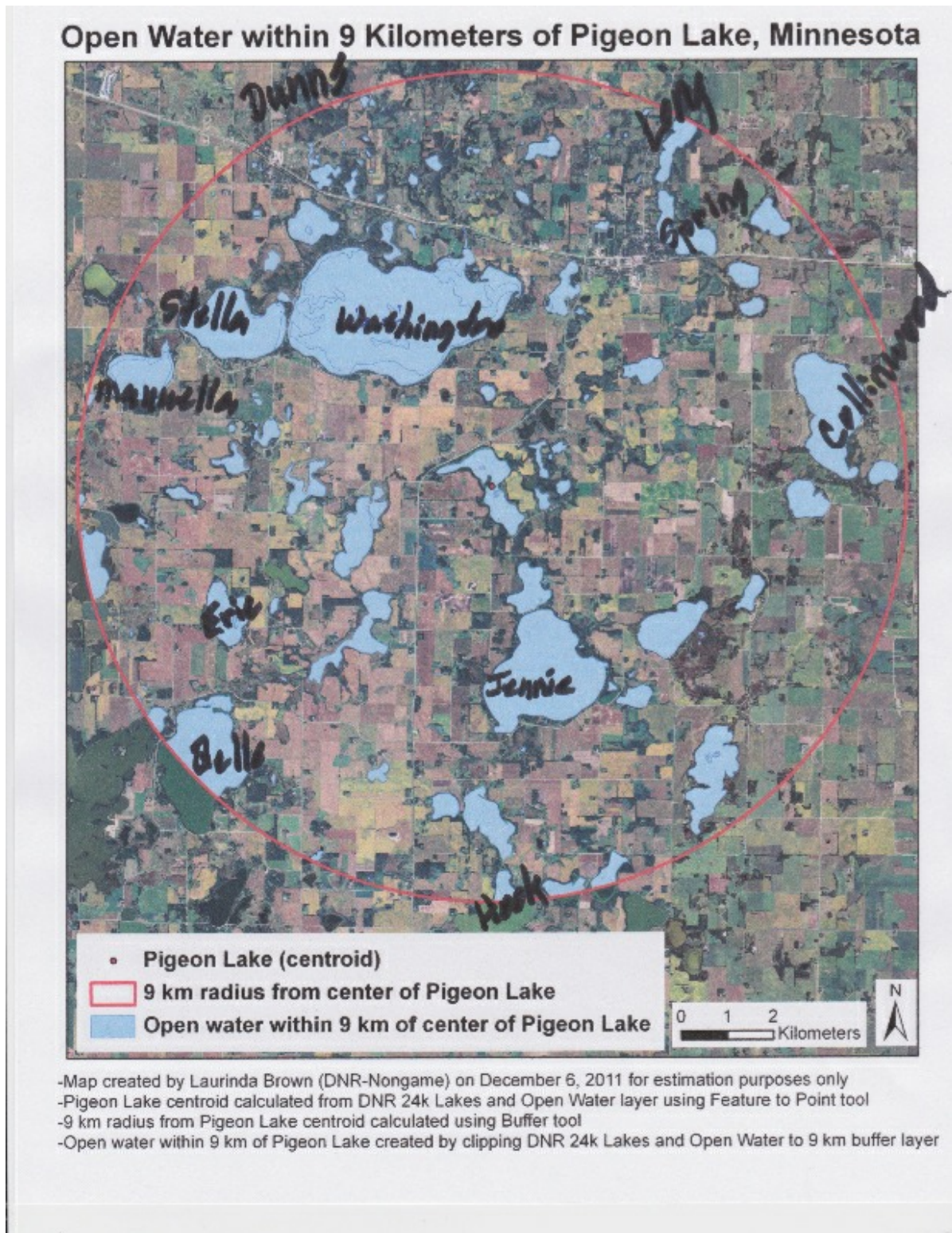
Both Rick and the DNR have a number of charts with statistical information. I have chosen to publish just these two in order to save space and because I believe they tell the story quite nicely. If you **MUST** have additional charts, write us at "info@lakewashingtonassn.com" and we'll see what we can do



A Reactive Approach to Cormorants (continued)

The Cormorant “Halo” of Lakes.

This map shows the nine kilometer “halo” around Pigeon Lake. It includes Washington, Stella, Manuella, Collinwood, and Jennie just to name a few.



Property Owners Survey – Summary

By Steve Ullom

Survey Results

The survey results showed the passion and concerns homeowners have for Lake Washington. It reinforced the Board of Directors commitment to continuing the programs that are working and to provide more and better education/information with regards to all aspects that affect the Lake Washington community.

The information gathered in the Lake Survey provided valuable demographic information of ownership and lake usage. Your responses prioritized the issues and concerns property owners have about water quality. The data showed the knowledge and concerns people have for all aspects and issues that impact our lake community.

To this end the Lake Washington Improvement Association of Meeker County has the following goals:

1. To preserve the natural resources Lake Washington provides to our lake community.
2. To maintain and improve water quality by continuing our annual water testing, implementing annually a comprehensive vegetation management plan that meets the lakes needs, improving our watershed, addressing issues that affect our fish populations, and providing education/information on invasive species.
3. Continue and increase our representation on local, regional, and state boards to better communicate our needs and get buy in from these groups.
4. Maintain a good working relationship with the DNR.
5. Provide education to homeowners and those that use our lake on septic systems, run-off, shoreline protections, and best practices when it comes to protecting our water quality.
6. Achieve 100% membership.
7. Follow our comprehensive lake management plan and revise as needed.
8. Expand our communications, out reach, and education with all property owners of needs and concerns of Lake Washington.

Property Owners Survey Summary (continued)

Benefits of Lake Washington Membership

1. Comprehensive water quality testing and monitoring of the results.
2. Monthly vegetation surveys by board members to chart the growth of invasive and natural vegetation to make better decisions on how and where to treat when needed.
3. Your representation and membership on the Meeker County Association of Lakes.
4. A working relationship with the DNR, township boards, county and state organizations, along with communication with local and state elected officials.
5. Newsletters published 3 times a year.
6. Education, information, and resources on managing invasive species, lake vegetation, shoreline and water shed issues, and answers to questions you may have on any lake concern.
7. A website that provides information to ALL property owners and the general public, along with board minutes, newsletters, links to articles of concern and a means of providing updates and information on all lake issues.
8. Update and distribution of a lake directory on a consistent basis, that provides information on all lake ownership issues, historical information, and ads from local companies to serve your every need.
9. Free pork chop dinner at the Annual Spring Meeting (1st Saturday of May).
10. August potluck/picnic social event with door prizes (1st Saturday of August).
11. With our numbers we do have a voice in maintaining and increasing property values.
12. An active association is better able to obtain grants and dollars for lake improvement projects.

Reviews of the data collected on the surveys can be found in the Fall 2014 and Spring 2015 newsletters. The complete Property Owners Survey 2013 written report with graphs is available on our website. If you would like a hard copy please contact a board member.

Invasive Species Committee

Ron Bubany, Cathy Klehr, Ken Klehr, Bill Ooley

We have been out twice this year to survey Eurasian Water Milfoil. As we found last year, there just isn't any. The DNR has also failed to find any milfoil during a mini-survey they performed. There are plans afoot to do a complete assessment of the entire lake later this summer. We'll keep you posted.

The volunteers who are monitoring submerged cement blocks for zebra mussels have not reported anything. That's good to hear.

I (Ron Bubany) obtained permission from the DNR to drop a block from the dock at the public access. It has disappeared, including the rope. Worse yet, the block I set from my own private dock has become wedged under the boat lift and I can't get it out!



So much for "simple" projects.

Bubany's First (Possibly Last) Annual Fishing Contest

By Ron Bubany



If, between now and the publication of our fall newsletter, you can catch the largest fish I'll put your picture, name, and weight (of the fish) in the fall newsletter.

In fact, I will put second and third place finishers as well.

RULES:

Must be a FISH caught by hook and line.

Must be from Lake Washington.

Must be caught between now and publication of the fall newsletter.

HOW TO SUBMIT

Send me an email picture of you and the fish (info@lakewashingtonassn.com). Include your name and the weight of the fish. You may include other details if you wish.

I will accumulate the entries and post the winners (1st, 2nd, 3rd) this fall. In the meantime you will not know if you have won or not.

Publication in the newsletter is the ONLY prize. But isn't that enough?

How cool is that?

Water Quality Testing

by Ken Klehr

With help from volunteers Dan Faust, Rick Johnson, Dave Rathe and Dean Shaner water quality sampling for May and June went very smoothly although we had some procedural issues to work out.

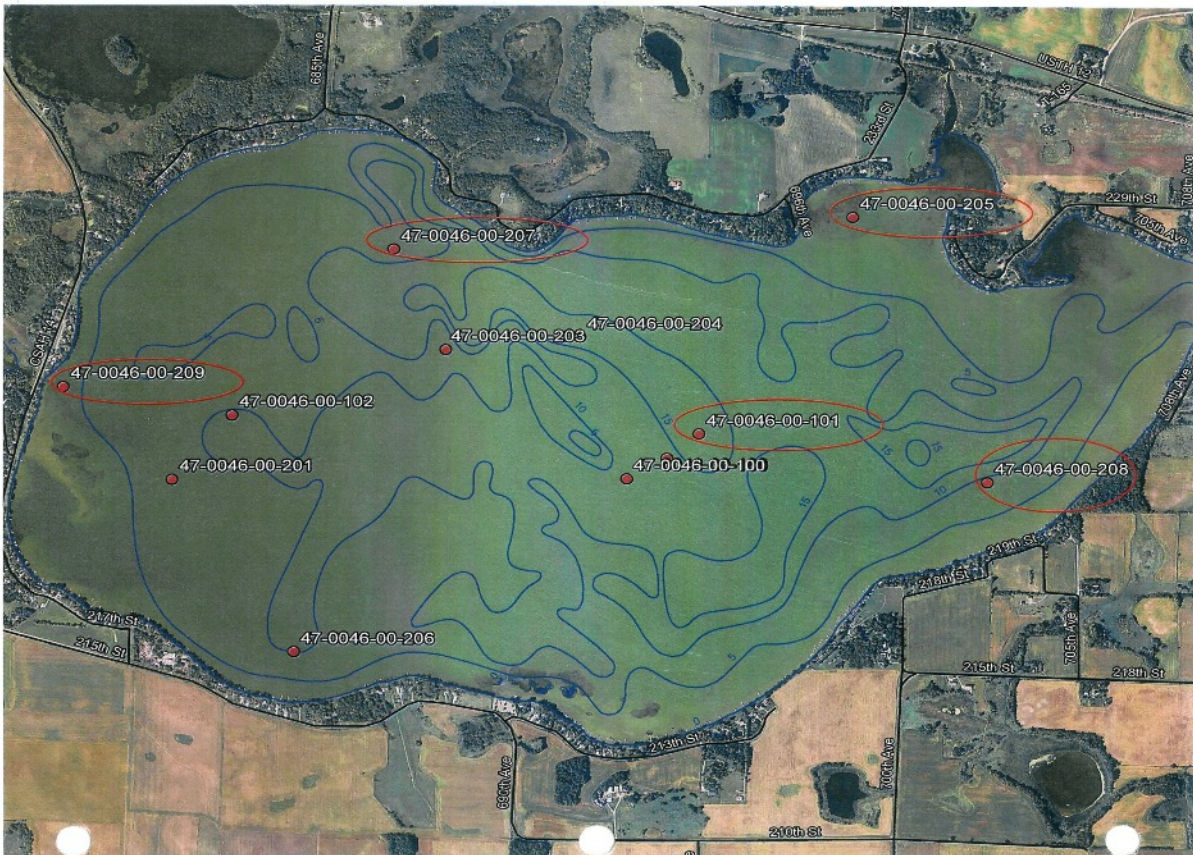
There are five sites (see map with sites circled in red) around the lake that we are sampling. At all five sites we check for water clarity using a secchi disc. At two of these sites we also gathered water samples. We submitted the samples to a certified water quality test lab to perform nutrient analysis. This analysis allows us to determine (using the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) Tropic State Index (TSI)) what the water quality is of Lake Washington.

Based on the tests conducted we are within the MPCA water quality standards. But keep in mind that water quality needs to be assessed over years not months. Using data from the MPCA that dates back to 1982 we look good.

A benefit of doing the water quality sampling and testing ourselves is that water quality problems can be identified immediately and action can be taken quickly.

Work still needs to be done. We still have the months of July, August, and September for sampling and testing. Also we need to refine sampling procedures, develop reports and submit data to MPCA.

Special thanks to Dan, Rick, Dave and Dean for their help.



Watershed Committee Report

Skip Sustacek, Ken Klehr, Rick Fernstrom

Our holding pond on the southwest end of Lake Washington is looking and working well. The grass is growing well and mowing has been done three times at about a six inch height.

The hard rain we had early this spring filled up the pond and we had cloudy water for about four days. But since then the pond has cleared up nicely.

Due to the heavy rain - and now crops growing in the fields - we were unable to install the proper intakes. Had we been able to install the intakes we would have reduced the cloudiness of water coming into the lake.

When the crop harvest is completed we will have the intakes installed. Mother Nature sometimes has her own time schedule.

Joe Norman of the USDA Office will be giving us a report of the volume of water that enters the lake from all eight watershed areas we have been monitoring. We will have this information by your next report.

Thank You to all who have supported our holding pond project. It's working. And when the new intakes are installed it will work even better!

DNR Boat Inspection

By Steve Grotbo

On the Friday of Memorial Day Weekend, the DNR made very good use of the "Darwin-Dassel Park" - aka the rest area on north side of Hwy 12. All vehicles towing boats were required to stop for a water craft inspection. About ten DNR officials were present, so nobody had to wait in line and the entire process looked painless. The sheriffs were present as well on Hwy 12 to ensure none of the vehicles missed the turn. Of course since the sheriffs were already there, they took the opportunity to pull over some speeders. Everything is pointing to education as the best measure for avoiding the invasive plants and animals. So in the end, I think this was great effort on the DNR and made good use of their time without upsetting too many people.



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Committee Reports

Shoreline Captains/Membership Committee

Cathy Klehr, Rick Johnson, Mike & Sandy Wosmek

Thanks to all who have renewed their membership. To recognize these people, we have included a list of paid members in this newsletter. We also have this listed on our web site and update it monthly. Without your support of our association we would not be able to maintain the quality and beauty of our lake.

If you have not yet sent in your dues, you can still do so. Please send a check for \$50 to LWIA, Box 68, Dassel, MN. 55325.

Our Shoreline Captains attended a meeting Memorial weekend to get their rosters and will be covering their area throughout the summer. Thanks to these Volunteers who have put a lot of their time and effort into this program. For a list of captains visit us on our web site. We do have openings and if you are interested in volunteering your time, please contact any board member.

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

FINANCE / FUND RAISING COMMITTEE

Lyle Walker

Annual filings for the State of Minnesota and the IRS have been submitted for the year ended April 30, 2015. One hundred eighty-five memberships have been received through June 30, generating \$9,250 for the Lake Association. This is 15 memberships fewer than at the same date last year. Sixty-seven members have donated \$1,725 to the Dassel Fire Department through the Lake Association so far this season. There are no unpaid bills on hand and the financial position is good with total funds on hand of \$114,522.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Skip Sustacek, Mike & Sandy Wosmek

where do the days go -- here we are in July, the 4th is past and we're talking about August already.

Thanks to all who came to our May gathering ---- it was a great turnout and seemed to be enjoyed by all. Now keep [August 1](#) available for our Annual Pot Luck at the Dassel Sportsman Club house.



Meat sandwiches will be provided.

Please bring a dish to share and your own plates, utensils, and beverage.

Social hour to start at 5 p.m.

Pot luck meal at 6 p.m.

Short meeting and drawing for prizes to follow.

Hope to see many of you on [August 1](#) for pot luck.

Have a great summer!!!

COOKBOOKS

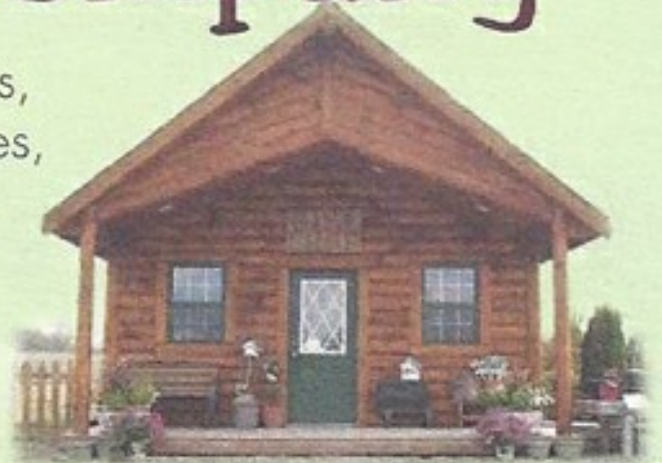
Lake Washington cookbooks are available for \$10.00. To purchase a cookbook call Cathy @ 320-626-2056, Sandy @ 320-275-4662 or go to info@lakewashingtonassn.com and we can get a copy to you.

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SATURDAY AUGUST 8TH

**24th ANNUAL
TWINE BALL
DAY
CELEBRATION**

**DARWIN TWINE K-7:30am
CRAFT FAIR-9AM
PARADE-12:30pm
MINI RODS-2:30pm
PORK CHOP DINNER-4-7pm
MUSIC IN THE PARK BY:
OCTOBER SUN 7pm-11pm**

LWIA Paid Member Listing

Wednesday, July 01, 2015

Name	Name	Name
Abeln, Rick and Bonnie	Daly, Frank	Hoops, Gregory & Rebecc
Anderson, Duane & Carol	Daniels, Gary & Sharon	Horacek, Jeff & Denise
Anderson, Ken	Danielson, Scott & Pamela	Horman & Deb Currie, Ric
Anderson, Marlowe & Sha	Dullinger, Craig & Dr. Anit	Hoversten, Donald
Bahr, Richard & Carla	Engel, Bill	Jans, Dennis & Kristin
Baker, Paul & Debbie	Engh , Andy & Vicki	Johnson, Brett & Shari
Ballard, Kenneth & Jane	Erickson, Kevin & Terrie	Johnson, Keith & Laurie
Barnes, James F. & Annett	Fay, Frank & Margaret	Johnson, Todd & Julie
Barsness, John & Jeanette	Fernstrom, Gaylord & Jea	Jurgenson, Ryan & Stacy
Bartz, John	Fernstrom, Rick & Abby	Karlson, Dave & Bev
Becker, Kris	Field, Mike & Cheryl	Keeler, James M. & Sue
Benjamin, Charles & Shar	Fink, John E. & Ruth	Kerstein, Robert & Ruth
Benson, Gary & Cindy	Finkenaur, Bob & Nancy	Kjell, Steve & Jenny
Benson, Keith	Flores, Phil & Mary Jo	Klehr, Ken & Cathy
Betker, Gene & Barb	Fouts, Darlene & Pat	Klitzke, Burt & Shirley
Betker, Paul & Jan	Gayner, Tom & Jo Ann	Kluver, Tom & Jacqueline
Blake, Jeff and Amy	Grams, Bill & Jane	Knapp, Steve & Sandy
Blake, Jon R	Griep, Mary	Komarek, Dan & Ruth Lots
Bock, Nelson & Bev	Griffith, Robert & Dianne	Kotila, Larry & Gloria
Bollman, Don & Jane	Griffiths, John & Darlene	Kraemer, Thomas & Sandr
Bonniwell, Jack & Dianne	Grotbo & Elizabeth Walke,	Krautkremer, Larry & Pam
Borg, John & Kate	Haag, Scott & Kay	Krogstad & Traci & Bill Lar
Braun, Chris & Suzanne	Haefner, Andy & Marcia	Larson, Bryan & Linda
Brinkmann, George & Jud	Hanson, Patricia A. & Larr	Larson, James & Nancy
Brinkmann, Grace	Hauer, Tom & Patty	Larson, Mark & Jan
Brown, Carol & Ben	Haugland, Ray & Dorothy	Lindquist, Dick & Lynne
Bubany, Ronald & Rita	Hausladen, Emmett & Jan	Longhenry, Janice
Burgstahler, Neil & Patty	Heimerl, Duayne & Sue	Longhenry, Tom & Cindy
Burrill, Connie	Herd, Daniel & Sheila	Loosbrock, Kelly & Holly
Burt, Steve & Diana	Hoese, Elaine	Lovald, Arlan & Jill
Cartwright, Gene & Darlen	Hoffman, Mark & Lisa	Lueneburg, Brad & Jeri
Christianson, Gary & Pegg	Hogan, Jane and Paul	Lueneburg, Milton & Darl
Cowan, Bill & Bev	Hohenstein, Darwin & The	Lukes, Fritz & Jo
Craig, Bill & Carole	Holmgren, Donald	Lyke, Thomas & Mary Jo

LWIA Paid Member Listing

Wednesday, July 01, 2015

Name	Name	Name
Madsen, Kevin & Judy	Rettman, Don & Georgia	Verby, Steve & Joyce
Madson, Alice	Roberts, John & Lori	Walker, Lyle & Georgiann
Manke & Wanita Johnson,	Rogness, Zach	Walls, Sue
Mary Jo Loncorich, Tim Re	Ruschmeyer, Vernon & Re	Wanzek, Denny & Pat
Matthias, Mark & Ronda	Saber, Tony & Terry	Weller, Dave & Tiffany
McGuire, Robert & Pat	Samson, Kalin & Nancy	Wendinger, Leon & Shirle
McKimm, Mike & Renae	Sandstede, John	Wendling, James & Barb
McLain, Luke & Erin	Schierman, Mark & Wend	Westlund, Dave & Karen
Messner, Michael & Chery	Schmit & Jim Bottema, M	White, Michael & Karon
Messner, Russell & Teresa	Schroeder, Dennis & Louis	Wick, Karen & Richard
Milbrandt, Pat & Wally	Schroeder, Doug & Kathy	Williams, Mike & Marlene
Milne, Paul & Elizabeth	Schuette, Stanley & Linda	Winter, Dean & Kimberly
Mlinar, John & Carol	Schugel, Joachim & Leann	Wolf, Gary
Moore, Terry & Sue	Schultz, Ray & Evonne	Wood, Mark & Lynn
Moorhead, Kevin	Schumaci, Stephen	Woodford, Dale & Margo
Morrow, Monty & Carme	Schwarzrock, David	Wosmek, Michael & Sandr
Moses & Karl Terning, Ca	Schwinghammer, George	
Motzko, Jean	Servin, Jeanette	
Nathe, Richard & Jean	Settergren, Dale & Jane	
Nielson, Ron & Joyce	Shaner, Dean & Jeanette	
Noplos, John & Janice	Skalberg, Kenneth L.	
Ohme, Daniel G. & Sheryl	Steiner, Owen & Mary	
Olsen, Mark & Dianne M.	Stenmark, Larry & Karen	
Ooley, Bill & Bev	Strom, Bob & Arlene	
O'Shea, Lori & Michael	Stueber, Russ & Lois	
Paulson, David & Connie	Sustacek, Harvey & Sharo	
Paulson, Robert & Sheila	Swanson, John & Dinh	
Polt, Beverly & James	Tenold & Anne Mahoney,	
Quinn, Reagan	Terning, Evans & Wanda	
Rasset, Gary & Robyn	Thompson, Wayne	
Rathe, Dave & Sue	Trautman, Allan & Susan	
Reed, Mark & Lynn	Turnbull, Sharon & Stuart	
Regenscheid, Ron & Steph	Ullom, Steve & Christine	
Reinke, Kenneth & Dorothe	Van Horn, Lee K. & Lori	