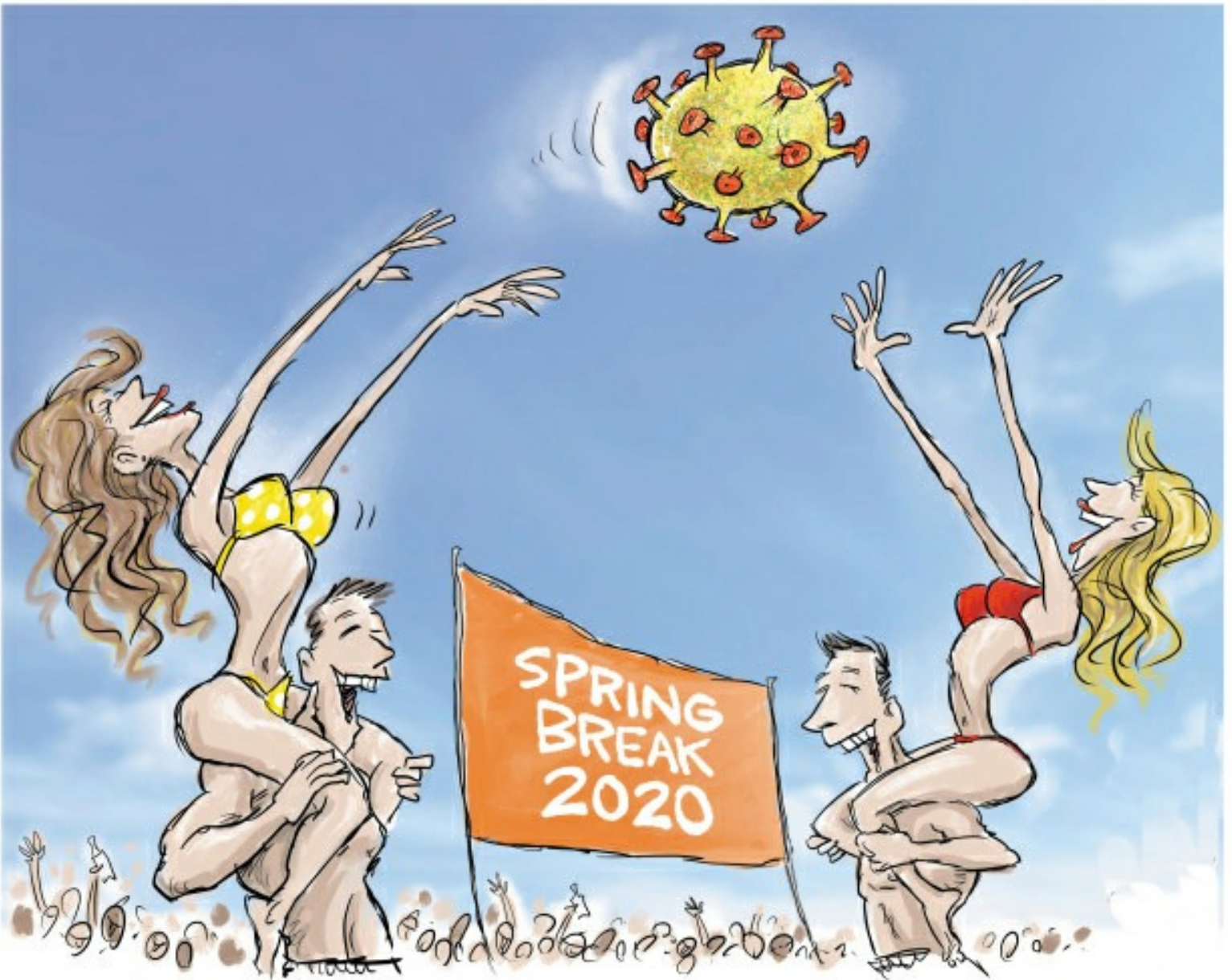




Lake Washington Improvement Association

Spring 2020



The corona virus pandemic has forced us to modify our summer schedule. Details are in the "End of Dock" article on page 4.

Sales & Service
EZ DOCK & LIFT LLC

320-296-2623

ezdockandlift@gmail.com

Find us on:



Our Services:

- Hometown Porta-Dock Dealer
- Dock & Lift Installation/Removal
- Barge Service
- Boat Winterization
- Shrink wrap and Storage
- Storm Damage
- Many other miscellaneous requests

PORTA DOCK

SPRING NEWSLETTER, 2020

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

Contact Us

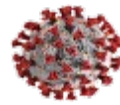


General Issues:
info@lwiaonline.com

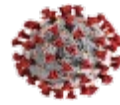
Membership Changes:
membership@lwiaonline.com

Lost and Found:
lostfound@lwiaonline.com

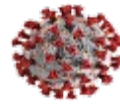
The Lake Washington Newsletter is published three times a year (Spring, Summer and Fall) by the Lake Washington Improvement Association. It is distributed free to lake property owners and friends around Lake Washington.



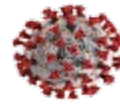
End of the Dock 4



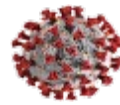
Boy Scouts Cleanup 5



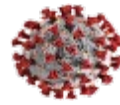
Grants 6



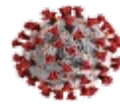
Watershed 7



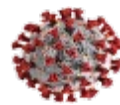
Pat's Garden 7



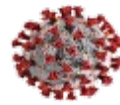
Walleye Study 8



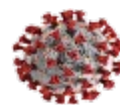
MCAL 9



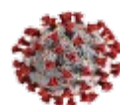
Water Quality/I-LIDS 10



Zebra Mussels 11



Eurasian Water Milfoil 12



Committee Reports 13

End Of The Dock

By Steve Grotbo, President



Well 2020 is not panning out the way we would like. I am sure it will come as no surprise that we are delaying the annual pork chop dinner. Please do however mail in your membership card with the dues. Following safe social distancing, the shoreline captains will not be able to come door to door to encourage membership. So we are counting on each of you to join as you have in the past. Hopefully things change soon...

Normally with the annual meeting comes the elections to the board. Pat Hanson, Steve Grotbo, Mark Johnson, and Dave Rathe all have their three year term ending. Luckily, all of them have agreed to another three year term. In the past it has been difficult to get people to join the board and in 20 years on the lake I have yet to experience a real election. Saying that, if anyone would like to be part of the board, please speak up and let any board member know your wishes.

I have been saying "Alexa play Biggest Ball of Twine in Minnesota by Weird Al Yankovic" to provide about seven minutes of entertainment each day. You can encourage your friends and relatives to do the same and it will be like they are visiting you at the lake in these times of social distancing.

If you are viewing online, you can click this link:

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=biggest+ball+of+twine+in+minnesota&view=detail&mid=4801DD664BAC808A1D0C4801DD664BAC808A1D0C&FORM=VIRE0&ru=%2fsearch%3fq%3dbiggest%2bball%2bof%2btwine%2bin%2bminnesota%26form%3dQBLH%26sp%3d-1%26pq%3dbiggest%2bball%2bof%2btwine%2bin%2bminnesota%26sc%3d6-34%26qs%3dn%26sk%3d%26cvid%3dFDB9F003F9394DB4B1CFD0F99FA8A16D>



The board is continuing to meet, although virtually instead of face-to-face. One of the biggest and most expensive projects this year will be the Eurasian Milfoil study and treatment (more details later this summer). If you have other projects for the board to look into, please let us know.

On a personal note, we just got a new dock over the winter. So no longer will people be able to use our bright yellow dock as a landmark. The new one has a bench and larger area at the end, so feel free to wave and say hi this summer and maybe even stop and chat for a while.

Summer cannot come soon enough.

Boy Scouts Cleanup

By Steve Grotbo



A big thank you to the Boy Scouts for doing a spring cleanup before the ice melted. The group was out on Sunday, March 8th, which weather wise was a beautiful day to be outside. The assistant troop leader Paul Wesley wrote the following.

"We picked up 3 large garbage bags of trash between Washington and Stella. Notable items included a soggy frozen pizza, windshield wiper, 6 bath towels, 1 lb propane tanks, Kong dog toy, helmet visor, a boot, and LOTS of bags of poop. Of course, there were lots of cans, bottles, cigarette butts, and wood too. The 6 of us spent 5 hours each on average on the lake and landings. Seems like a lot, but the Lake was really pretty clean. The boys had a lot of fun. Dads too."

PUMPING & DRAIN CLEANING, INC.



1-800-898-4936
320-243-4267
320-693-1000

- Septic Tanks
- Rotary Line
- Holding Tanks
- Hydro-jetting
- Grease Traps
- Frozen Sewer & Water lines
- Car Wash Pits
- Raiser Updating
- Filter Maintenance
- Pump Repair & Replacement
- Video Inspection "Camera"

Licensed - Bonded - Insured • Locally Owned & Operated

Refer to this ad for a 10% discount on your next septic pumping.

2020 Grant Funding Programs

By Sharon Daniels, Grant Coordinator

Today as I write this article for the newsletter, there is an unsettling that all of us are facing with the COVID-19. We may not be thinking of summer and the enjoyment it brings to us as lake members, but we know we must look forward, keep a positive attitude and think about all the good things in our lives.

Receipts and invoices were sent in for 2019 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and Meeker County Association of Lakes (MCAL) expenses. MCAL reimbursement for 2019 to LWIA was \$4,322.27 for mapping, and sediment control projects. AIS reimbursements for 2019 were: Project # 1) \$1,826.71 for management of the I-LIDS, and Project # 3) \$789.85 for utilization of professional services. There were no Milfoil reimbursements (Project # 2) as LWIA did not treat for Milfoil in 2019.

MCAL has granted funds to LWIA for 2020 for \$5,000 for Mapping/sediment Control Projects. We have received information on the AIS Grant Program, but it is unclear the amounts approved for projects 1 and 2. Approval for project 3 is \$2,000.00 for 2020. Will update more in the next newsletter.

The volunteer work of so many on Lake Washington has been a huge benefit to keeping our lake at its best. The grant reimbursements to LWIA are also a huge benefit in keeping our costs to a minimum.

If you do any volunteer work for LWIA, whether it be shoreline captain duties, or in a boat, going to meetings, etc., please keep track of your hours, food and or gas receipts, mileage driven to do a project, etc. You can email me at sdaniels@grdaniels.com with all your "in-kind" hours, or any receipts or info you may have. I keep track of all the info for the year in a report, and then I send this report to the county at the end of the year. This report reflects how and why our lake is kept in as good of condition as it has been, and I use this report when working on grants for each new year. I use receipts sent to me to request reimbursement for the projects. Reimbursements will not happen unless we have documented receipts to show for projects completed, meetings attended or whatever the need was. Save your receipts, keep track of your hours, and send them to me on a monthly basis if possible.

"Listen and Learn" will be our motto this year! The more we can learn as lake members, the more control we will have in keeping our lake clean of other AIS infestation.

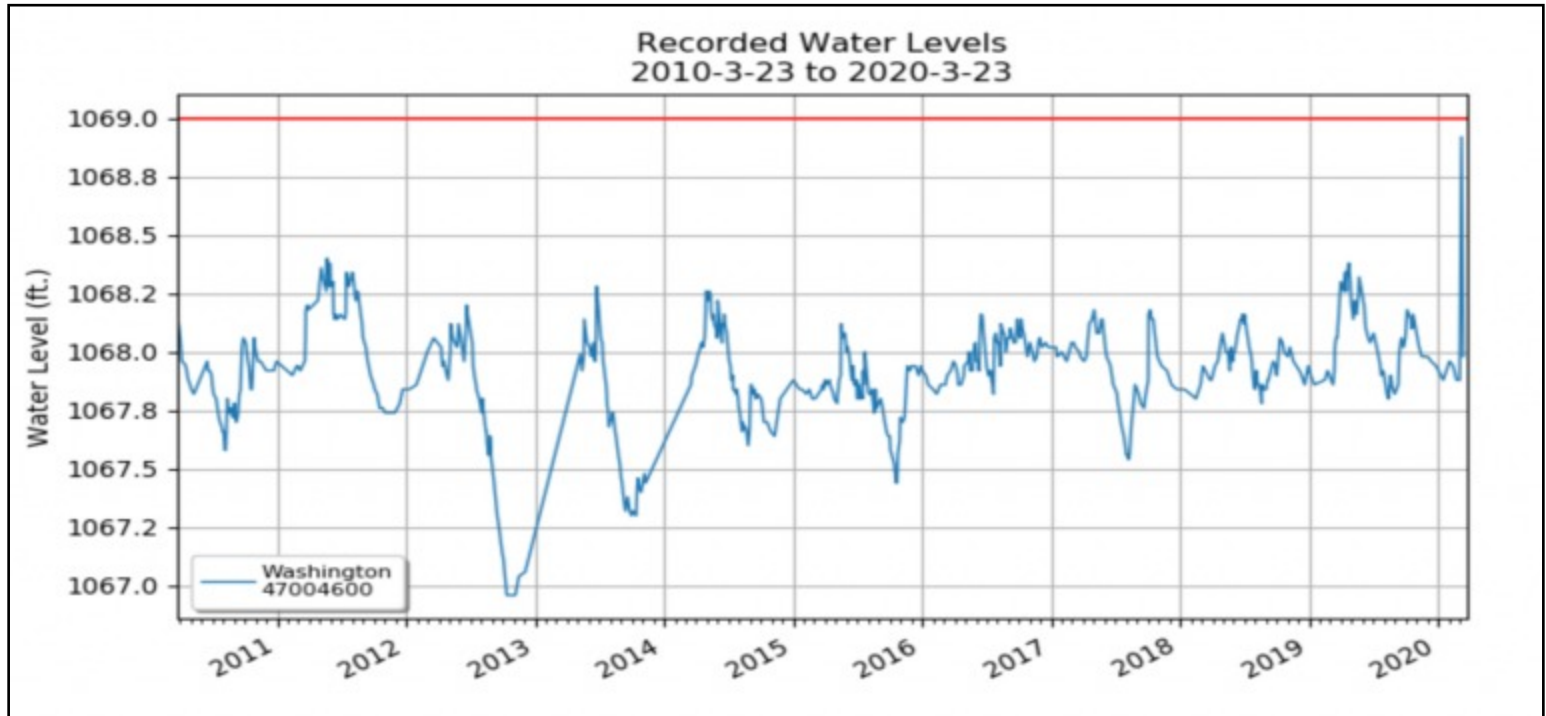
THANKS to all that help in any way to keep our lake safe, fun and usable!



Watershed Report

By Skip Sustacek

The spring rains are here. The holding pond has geese floating on the water. They are enjoying the open water. Let's hope spring will stay with us this year. The warm weather has opened up the inlets into the lake.



Levels are expressed in feet above sea level.

Pat's Plan For Her New Garden

By Pat Hanson

Do you like Asclepias Tuberosa?



These things can grow in our Meeker County soil. There is a butterfly that will travel from Mexico to Minnesota and they need their favorite food. What kind? Thanks for asking. The Monarch Butterfly needs the butterfly milkweed. It is a butterfly friendly perennial. The flowers are orange, red and yellow. They will have blossoms until October. They will thrive in full sun and regular watering on my part. The nectar of this milkweed will provide food, a place for the Monarchs to lay their eggs as well as the leaves which will be the caterpillars only food source. Bees and other pollinators will be feeding at my new garden.

I can't wait.

My master gardener friends have shown me this! So this year I will have a butterfly garden on my Lake Washington property. I have read about this great food source for our Monarchs. This particular type of milkweed is rabbit-deer resistant.

There were three fawns feeding on our neighbors apple trees.

Rabbits were abundant around our cabin too last summer/fall.

So Asclepias Tuberosa is the butterfly milkweed.



**Hutchinson DNR Area Fisheries Office 20596 Hwy 7 West
Hutchinson, Minnesota 55350**

The first year of the Lake Washington chain Walleye tagging project has concluded. The winter angler survey portion concluded on March 13th.

This first year included tagging over 1,800 Walleye on all three lakes in April of 2019, a summer angler survey that went from Walleye opener to the end of September, a standard gill net survey on all three lakes, a fall gill net survey on Washington and Stella, and a winter angler survey that went from mid-December to mid-March. This was an extraordinary amount of effort on the chain that provided a great deal of baseline information about Walleye in the chain.



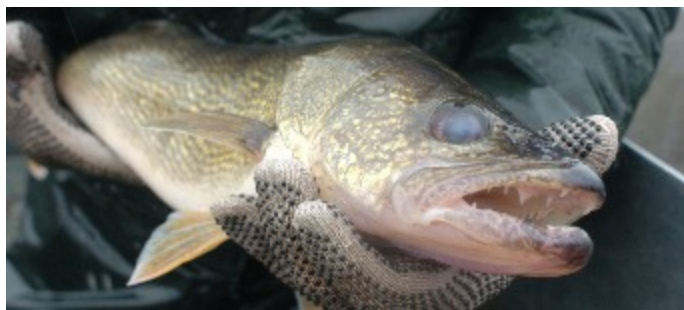
A total of 1,808 Walleye in all three lakes were tagged with 439 fish recaptured by the MN DNR or anglers. The total number of Walleye 10 inches and larger was 5,834 in Washington, 1,079 in Stella, and 301, in Manuella. The total estimate for the entire chain was 7,214 fish. The estimates for adult mature fish were 716 fish in Washington, 988 in Stella, and 295 in Manuella. The total estimate for the entire chain was 1,998 fish.

A second part of this project was to estimate what percent of the population was being harvested by anglers. This estimate is accomplished by using information from tag reports by anglers. We estimated that anglers harvested about 5.88% of the total population among all three lakes. To put this into perspective, an average Walleye population will see about 20% exploitation. Exploitation on the Lake Washington chain is a very low and harvesting is not a problem.

A final part of the tagging project is movement of Walleye among the lakes in the chain. A total of 31 fish were observed moving between lakes. Most of this movement was upstream, i.e. Washington to Stella and Stella to Manuella. Fish were even observed moving from Washington all the way up to Manuella. A smaller proportion of fish were observed moving downstream. This was primarily fish going from Stella to Washington.

In addition to Walleye tagging an angler survey was conducted during both the open water season and ice fishing season. A little under 10,000 angler-hours of fishing pressure was recorded on Washington during the summer. With an additional 1,600 hours during the winter. A total of about 7,000 hours of pressure was recorded on Stella. This is about 75% of the pressure that was recorded in 2001. During the summer season the majority of anglers were targeting Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass. It's not a true substitution, but the loss of walleye-targeting anglers was largely offset by the increase in bass-targeting anglers. Consequentially the majority of fish in the angler survey caught were bass. Walleye catch and harvest was less than 100 fish on Washington, however the majority of Walleyes caught and harvested was on Stella. Fishing pressure and catch during the winter was very light. The majority of fish caught in the winter were crappie on both Stella and Washington.

A few takeaways from 2019 for the Lake Washington project is that harvesting of Walleye is minimal, fish move through all three lakes fairly frequently, and a large proportion of the Walleye population were juvenile fish. How the population changes as these fish grow and mature is yet to be seen. A bright spot from 2019 was the 2019 Walleye stocking. The stocking rate was cut in half and fish from the Spicer area were stocked. This was done based on research that local strains of fish may survive better and less fish at first may survive better. Fall electro fishing indicated that young of year Walleye were significantly larger average and good numbers of fish were sampled.



Looking forward to this spring, we still plan on tagging fish on the Lake Washington chain, but how we accomplish this will change based on the COVID19 pandemic. Presently we must keep a 6 foot distance between employees and minimize contact. This makes many field work activities impossible. We will likely utilize electro fishing more than large trap nets. We will also be limited to staff only and no volunteers.

It is currently unknown if we will be able to conduct our summer gill net assessments. What we ultimately do will be decided as information is gathered and leadership in DNR and state government learn more.

Club level (for fun and below tournament permit thresholds) and tournament level bass fishing tournaments have grown in popularity on the chain; there are already four permitted tournaments on Washington-Stella for summer 2020 and we could receive more applicants.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service took public comment on proposed rulemaking for taking of Double-crested cormorants within the confines of the National Environmental Policy Act through March 9, 2020. What the service recommends and rolls out should be coming shortly. As of this writing, free-swimming fishes are excluded from Public Resource Depredation Orders that are issued for control of Double-crested cormorants.

Thanks to the Lake Washington Improvement Association for their volunteer time with our crew last year during netting, in helping with the exchange of volunteer/citizen-science and contracted service data, and in partnering on combating Aquatic Invasive Species. We appreciate your commitment to conserving Lake Washington.

MCAL

By Pat Hanson

Meeker County Association of Lakes is the organization that I attend four times a year. I try to represent our Lake Washington Association. Each Meeker County Lake Association may send a representative to come to the meetings to share our Lakes accomplishments and concerns.

I attended our first meeting on [January 16, 2020](#). We discussed the monies in our MCAL treasury. We discussed phosphorus testing in our Lakes in our county. We are asked again to test our Lake once a month for five months in the summer.

They are willing to train someone. Thanks go to Dave! Dave Rathe has been one of our volunteers. If MCAL has 20 volunteers willing to learn to do the testing they will come out to our county to train us. If you are interested contact me at (320) 593-8971.

Another item discussed was grants. We are awarded AIS grants as well as grants from our Meeker County board. I let Sharon Daniels know as soon as MCAL lets me know of when we can submit. Sharon is our grant writer and spends many hours preparing the grants for Lake Washington. Thanks, Sharon!

This last meeting we had reps from these Lakes: Minnibelle, Erie, Long, Jenny, Swan, a Star, Round, Stella, Manuella and Washington.

I have received word the Meeker County MCAL meeting for this spring has been canceled.

Be safe!

Water Quality Testing

By Dave Rathe

We are planning to take 5 water samples once per month starting in May and running through September. These samples will measure the amount of algae (Chlorophyll-a) and nutrients (Total Phosphorus) in the water. The analysis will again be performed by RMB Environmental Labs out of Detroit Lakes, MN. RMB has a nice website, RMBEL.info, where you can view Lake Washington past test results as well as other Minnesota lakes. Our data can be found under Lakes Monitoring Program in the Lakes & Streams drop-down menu.

We also plan to conduct water clarity tests twice per month at 5 different sites. It will be interesting to see if the water in the springtime is as clear as the last two years -14.5 feet for 2018 and 10.5 feet for 2019. At the end of the summer all data collected will be submitted to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. They also have a website where you can view our Lake's data at pca.state.mn.us although it takes a bit of "drilling down" in their website.

I-LIDS (Internet – Landing Installed Device Sensor)

By Dave Rathe

We are in the process of upgrading the I-LIDS system to 4G service as Verizon will no longer be supporting 3G in the near future. 4G will allow videos to be transmitted faster and will help save battery power. The upgrade is pretty extensive affecting controller, modem, firmware, antenna, and cabling. (3G = 3rd Generation and 4G = 4th Generation). 5G is not planned at this time.

Installation of the system will take place in May and will be removed in the October November time frame depending on weather 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.



**Midwest
Garden Company**

Annuals, Perennials, Trees,
Shrubs, Wild Bird Supplies,
Garden Accents, Gifts,
Seasonal Items

21392 CSAH 18
Dassel, MN 55325

www.midwestgardenco.com 320-275-9514 Hours: Tues.-Sat. 9-6, Sun. 1-5

Zebra Mussels

By Dave Rathe

Mike Wosmek plans to install the zebra mussel “hotels” (settlement plates) in the same locations as last year. Last summer we saw a large population of zebra mussels on the hotels, but they were mostly immature mussels. It will be interesting to see how mature the mussels are this year. We do clean the hotels every fall, so all zebra mussels on the hotels should be this year’s crop. We expect to see a 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.

There is currently no zebra mussel management approach applicable to Lake Washington, unfortunately.

Planned Zebra Mussel “Hotel” Locations



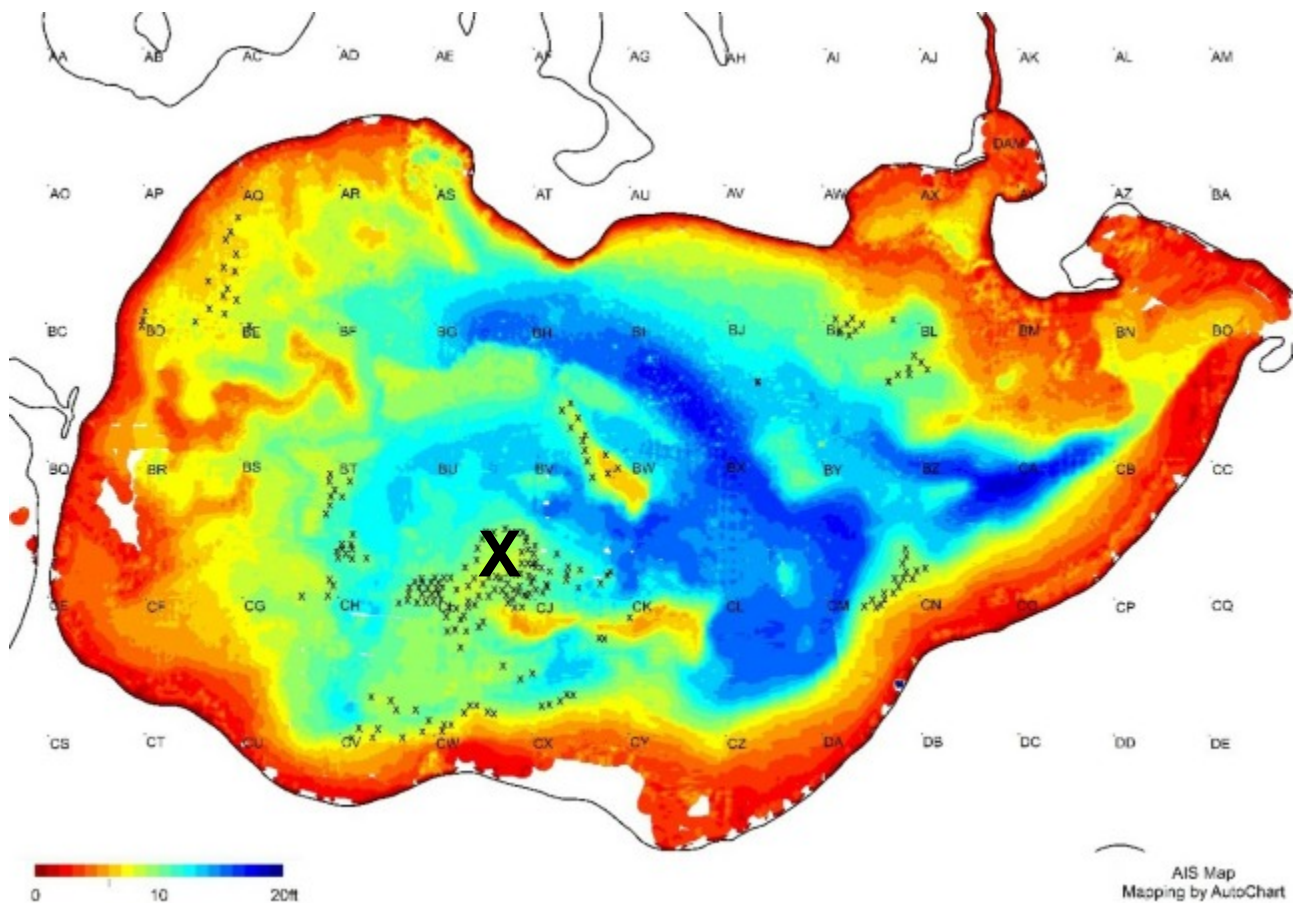
Aquatic Invasive Species

By Mark Johnson

In 2018, LWIA hired Limnopro to survey our lake for all types of invasive species. During their survey, they found 3 waypoints that had traces of Eurasian Water milfoil. These waypoints are in 10 feet of water and concentrated in the same general area (see large “X” on lake map). Milfoil at this depth does not reach the surface, but it is clearly visible and close to surfacing. In 2019, Ron Bubany and I sampled this area during our vegetation surveys and determined that this area of Eurasian Water milfoil is growing. We will consider hiring a company to treat this area this summer.

We will review this at our next board meeting and determine next steps if we do plan to proceed. Discussion will be recorded in our meeting minutes.

LAKE WASHINGTON x = Eurasian Water milfoil detected



Also, Ron surveyed the entire lake using sonar data that he collected while mapping our lake depths last summer.

Ron was able to identify possible patches of Eurasian Water milfoil throughout the lake (see the many small “x’s” on the lake map). We will work hard this summer performing vegetation surveys to confirm if these areas do or do not hold Eurasian Water milfoil.

See you on the lake!

Committee Reports

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

By Sandy Wosmek

It is **Sunday, March 15** as I sit down to write this article for the Spring Newsletter. Our world is in a Corona virus Pandemic. Minnesota is in a whirlwind of changes - closing schools, workers working from home when possible, possible lock down, healthcare dealing with the sickness and testing, closing of gatherings of more than 50 people, whatever more to deal with. A whole fruit basket upset in our busy world and come and go life that we are used to.

The lake board met and set dates for the 2020 year -

Annual meeting - **To be determined** - Free Pork Chop dinner and Membership Drive at the Dassel Rod and Gun Club.

Pot Luck - **Saturday, August 1**. The date is scheduled on the LWIA calendar, but watch for further details to follow in our summer newsletter.

At this time these dates are up in the air with all that's happening. Everyone will need to follow the website, Facebook, or Email for further information. We will keep all informed as soon as possible with updates and info, and will do our best with the events planned.

Take Care ----- Stay Healthy
Hope we all have a wonderful spring and summer at the lake.

Till next time ----- Have a good one.



Corona virus

Corona viruses are a group of related viruses that cause diseases in mammals and birds. In humans, corona viruses cause respiratory tract infections that are typically mild, such as some cases of the common cold, though rarer forms can be lethal, such as SARS, MERS, and COVID-19. Symptoms in other species vary: in chickens, they cause an upper respiratory tract disease, while in cows and pigs they cause diarrhea. There are yet to be vaccines or antiviral drugs to prevent or treat human corona virus infections.

FINANCE / FUND RAISING COMMITTEE

By Lyle Walker

There has been little financial activity since the end of the season last fall. Membership renewals for 2020 should be mailed in using the membership card in this newsletter. We begin this season in a strong financial position with total funds of \$131,625.

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

Committee Reports (continued)

Cormorant And Pelican Committee

By Steve Grotbo



The “USFWS DCCO Management Comment Opportunity” came out early this year that gave opportunity for everyone to give comments on the cormorant situation. The deadline was March 9th.

So we reached out via both email and Facebook reaching as many members as we could. Steve Ullom and myself created sample comments to make it easier to provide the specifics that they were looking for. The focus being on Pigeon Lake and the effects it has on Lake Washington.

The key difference I see here is this is at a Federal level and it was the Minnesota DNR that reached out to us for providing comments. All of the legislators, especially those from Arkansas and Mississippi are very supported of controlling the cormorants. Hopefully our Minnesota legislators step up to the plate and realize the impact this is having on our lakes.

The email reference above referred to the following links.

<https://lwiaonline.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Department-Of-The-Interior.pdf>

<https://lwiaonline.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Cormorants-1.pdf>

The next step will be an “Environmental Impact Statement” to be produced this spring and will allow for public comment.

The Toughest on the Waterfront

HEWITT DOCKS, LIFTS, AND STAIRS

Roll-A-Dock™

ADJUSTABLE HEIGHT DOCK SYSTEMS

Roll-A-Dock is simply the fastest and easiest way to get full enjoyment from your waterfront property. Just roll it in and you're ready for action!

- Aluminum and steel frames provide a lifetime of service
- Ramps, triangular sections and side sections available
- Works well on soft or rocky bottoms with gradual slopes



HEWITT CANTILEVER LIFTS

Cantilever lifts have a long history of trouble-free performance.

- Fewer moving parts for superior reliability
- Places less stress on pulleys and cables
- Operation easier as the boat is raised higher

Many options, accessories and canopies available.



ALL-TERRAIN STAIRCASE SYSTEM™

Hewitt high-performance staircases are built like no other, using stronger materials and smarter design features to give you greater value.

- Marine
- Commercial
- Residential
- ADA Compliance
- Industrial

Many decking options and colors available.



ULTRA DOCK BY HEWITT

Ultra Dock's modular design makes adding on or changing the configuration easy.

- Choose from three sizes: 4' x 8', 4' x 12' and 4' x 16'
- Wide range of layout options
- Full line of Ultra Dock accessories available to customize your installation

Completely Customizable
Add On • Change the Configuration • Accessorize



HEWITT

DOCKS - LIFTS - PONTOON LEGS

VISIT YOUR HEWITT DEALER TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ADVANTAGES OF THE TOUGHEST DOCKS, LIFTS, AND STAIRS ON THE WATERFRONT.

hewittrad.com