

DOCKSIDE



Vol. 10 Issue 1

May 2019

www.minnesotawaters.org/clearwaterlakearea

A message from the President – Jean Chadwick

Last summer the DNR Fisheries did a fish survey on our lake. We had preliminary results at our fall meeting. Gary Barnard will be our guest speaker at the May 26th meeting. He will provide us with the final results of the survey. Gary has provided a copy of the final report, he will review with us at the meeting. There is a link to the document in this newsletter and the link will take you to the document that is on our website. If you are receiving our newsletter via snail mail, please go on line to our website to access the report. Gary will have a few copies with him at our meeting.

I continue to expand my knowledge of AIS through education and volunteer hours. I will be supplementing AIS education at our access this summer outside of the paid inspector hours. I haven't set times yet as I need to complete the AIS Ambassador training in Park Rapids on June 6th from 1 – 4 pm. If you are interested in taking the class please contact Mike Bolinski at 218-739-7576 or michael.bolinski@state.mn.us. I'll have a Zebra Mussels trap for you see. One would be easy to duplicate and hang from your dock. Currently Chester Powell from Clearwater County hangs one from the public access dock and checks throughout the summer and fall.

Bruce Anspach is working on a grant with Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates for a CD3 unit that would be put at a public access in Beltrami County that has Starry Stonewort. Another volunteer opportunity is the Starry Trek which will be held this year on August 17th. Registration for this event will be available on the University of MN Extension Website.

There is a need for volunteers at the 40th Anniversary Debs 4th of July Parade. To help with parking either with or without an ATV contact Donnie Moe at 218-766-1906. Russ Johnson is in charge of Registration and Line-up (Judi is one of our Social Committee Co-Chairs) Is there any interest in a float or some sort of representation from our lake association for the parade? Bring your ideas to our meeting.

I only have one more letter to write this fall as your president. I'll be working on securing a speaker for our fall meeting and am excited to have Gary Barnard at our spring meeting. Let's show him how much we appreciate their work on our lake by showing up in numbers. Contact your neighbors and encourage them to attend and join our association!

*We salute all those who have served and those who
are in service now!
Happy Memorial Day to All!*

A poster for Memorial Day Weekend Meeting and Pot Luck Meal. It features a red star at the top, followed by the text "MEMORIAL DAY", "Weekend Meeting and Pot Luck Meal", and "SUNDAY, MAY 26TH". Below this, it lists the location "Moore's Garage (8 houses east of the public access)", the guest speaker "Gary Barnard Bemidji Area Fisheries Supervisor", and the meeting times "Board Meeting: 3:00 p.m." and "Pot Luck Meal: 5:00 p.m.". It also mentions "General Meeting follows the meal" and "Bring your favorite dish to pass along with plates, utensils and lawn chair – coffee and lemonade provided". At the bottom, it says "ALL MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS ARE WELCOME!".

MEMORIAL DAY
★ ★ ★
Weekend Meeting
and Pot Luck Meal
★ ★ ★
SUNDAY, MAY 26TH

Moore's Garage
(8 houses east of the public access)

★ ★ **Guest Speaker: Gary Barnard** ★ ★
Bemidji Area Fisheries Supervisor

Board Meeting: 3:00 p.m.
Pot Luck Meal: 5:00 p.m.
★ ★ ★
General Meeting follows the meal

★ ★ ★
Bring your favorite dish to pass
along with plates, utensils and
lawn chair – coffee and
lemonade provided

ALL MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS ARE WELCOME!

Happy Memorial Day!
TO THOSE WHO
COURAGEOUSLY
GAVE THEIR LIVES...
AND THOSE WHO
BRAVELY FIGHT
TODAY... THANK
YOU

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EIN # 41-1936608

THE ICE GOES ON and the Ice Goes Off!

The winter seemed so very long. We definitely felt we were in Minnesota...when you put more miles on the snowblower than on the car!

The ice went on Clearwater Lake November 20, 2018 and Bill Johnson claimed a victory with his ice on date of November 28. Way to go Bill! Congratulations!!

With the snow and ice behind us (we hope), we are anxiously awaiting for the ice to leave us once again and to hear the sweet sound of the loon.

According to various lake resident reports, the date of April 25 is officially the ice-out date on the lake. Contest winner is Deb Bjerke for her spot on guess. Congratulations to Deb!

LOON Update

by JoLynn Chadwick

I have been volunteering as a Loon Watcher for the Minnesota DNR since 2004 and each spring I eagerly wait for the mailing announcing the program for the coming year. This year when opening the envelope, which I noticed was not the same size, I wondered what I would find inside. It was only a letter informing all loon watcher volunteers that the Volunteer Loon Watcher Survey program would be ending. Here are some key components of the letter:

- Minnesota Loon Watcher Survey began in 1979 with 56 volunteers on 73 lakes and has grown to more than 300 volunteers on 450 to 400 lakes.
- More than 10,000 individual surveys reported over the years providing the DNR with incredible and unparalleled data providing essential insights into Minnesota loon biology, behavior and population characteristics.
- In next several months, the program objectives will be re-evaluated and options considered for a relaunching of the survey program with the development of a revised database platform, all with the hope to restart the volunteer survey program in the near future.
- Over the next several months, the data received from the past two seasons will

be organized, compiled and analyzed to give some insights into the health of our state's loon population.

After reading this letter and reading it again and again, I thought to myself... there just might be a connection to a press release appearing in the Brainerd Dispatch dated October 9, 2018:

Minnesota loons may get \$7.2 million from BP oil spill settlement

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Projects to bolster conservation efforts for Minnesota loons will get a huge boost under a settlement agreement announced Tuesday, Oct. 9, stemming from the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

The agreement, published Tuesday in the Federal Register, sets aside \$16 million from BP, the oil rig's owner, for fish and wildlife rehabilitation for species impacted by the explosion, fire and spill that killed 11 people, injured 17 others and sent millions of gallons of oil into the Gulf.

Minnesota loons spend their winters in the Gulf of Mexico—and Minnesota-born loons spend their second entire year there—before heading north to mate and raise their young.

Under the "Open Ocean" portion of the BP settlement, Minnesota loon restoration would get \$7.2 million. Minnesota's plan includes using the settlement money to buy conservation easements or critical loon habitat on Minnesota lakes shorelines to ensure they have quality nesting areas.

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