

President's Summer 2020 ELLA Newsletter

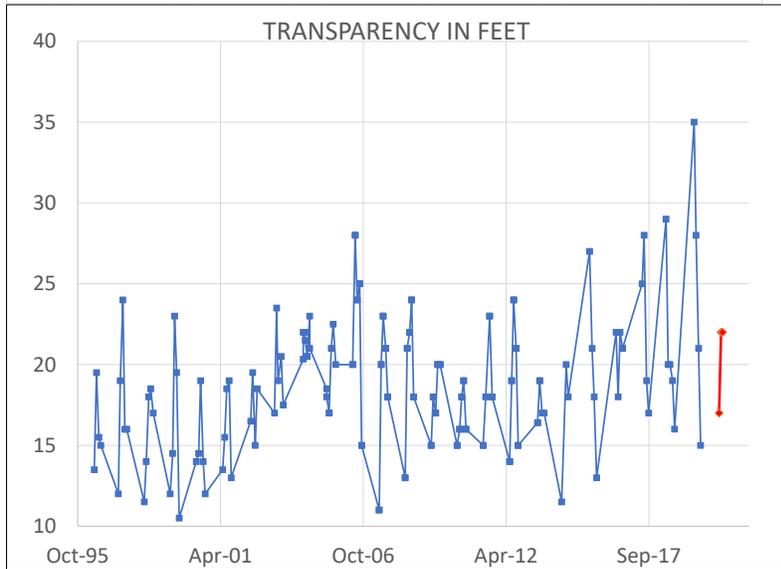
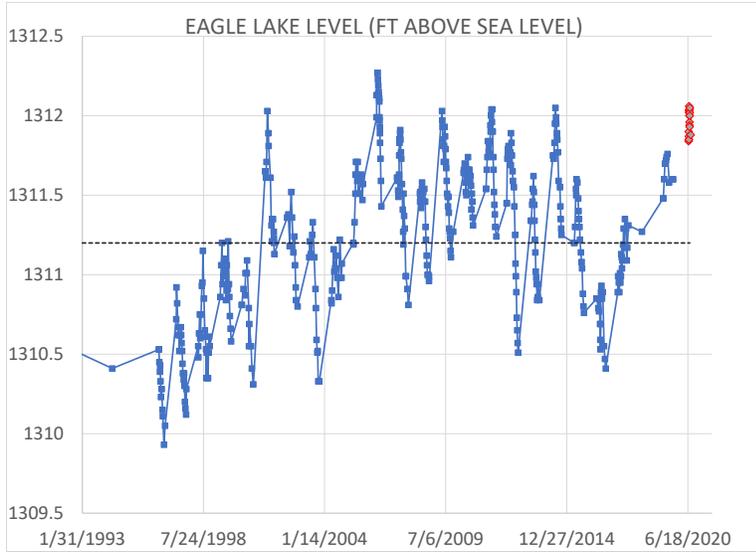
Since the ELLA Board of Directors decided it best not to have our annual meeting due to the pandemic, I will provide information that would have been communicated at the meeting if it had been held. Direct any questions to your Director, any officer or myself.

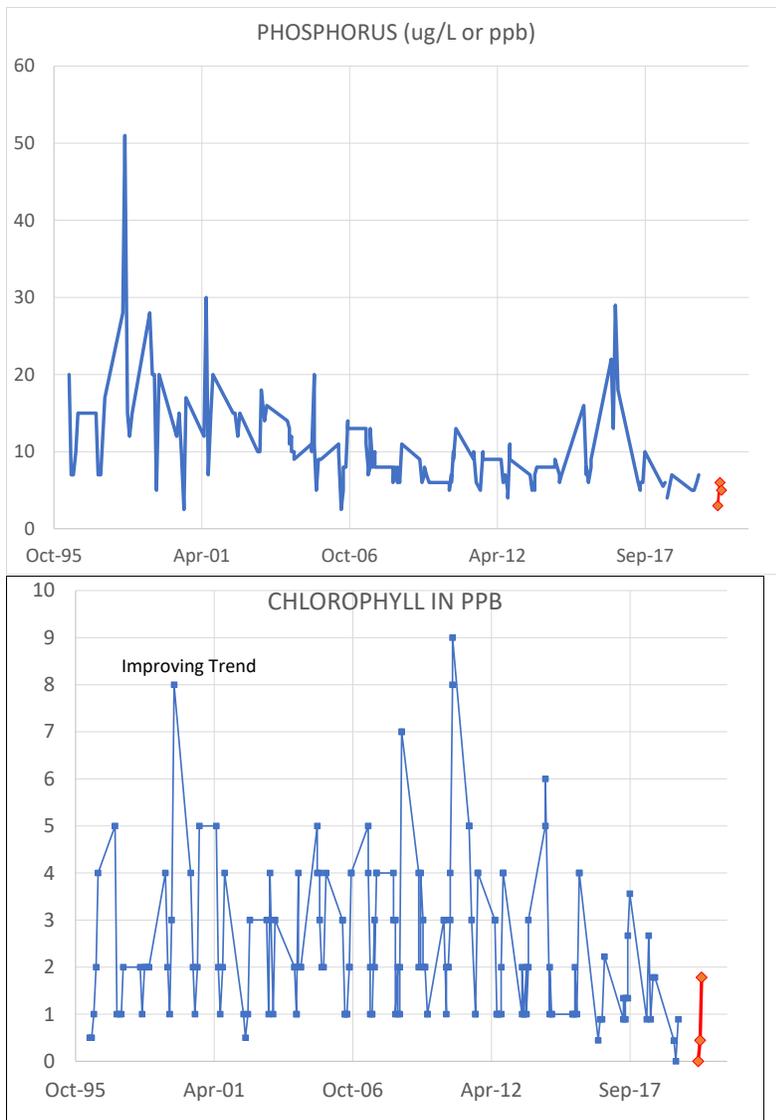
Membership

At the time of this writing, there were 128 paid up members in the Eagle Lake Lakeshore Association. If you have not paid your dues for this year and wish to do so, see the ELLA website for directions on doing so online or by mail. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Lake Test and Water Level Results

Water quality has been sampled at three dates in June and July of 2020. The data from 2020 are shown in red on the graphs below along with prior years shown in blue. Transparency (clarity) is determined from visual observation of a sechii disk and samples are analyzed for total phosphorus and chlorophyll-A.. Long-term improving trends are apparent in all three water quality graphs. Samples will also be collected in August and September.





Water Level

Gary Johnson has taken over the reading of lake levels from Jim Beech. Thanks to Jim for doing them in the past and to Gary for doing the future readings. The lake level, as you can see from the graph above, is very high. We are depending upon the outlet and evaporation to reduce the water level. I would like to see a drop of at least a foot.

The highest recorded lake level was in June of 2006, 1312.27 ft. above sea level. The lowest recorded level was in 1935, 1302.6 ft. I have a picture of what is

believed to be the south side of the lake, probably from the 1940's, which shows several peninsulas extending out in the lake.

Zebra Mussels

Since Eagle Lake is infested with Zebra Mussels, it is imperative that we take the precautions necessary to prevent the spread from our lake to others. This means any equipment such as docks and lifts that are sold and being transported to another lake must be both clean (no Zebra Mussels dead or alive) and dry for 21 days before being placed in another body of water. Additionally, the county requires the registration of docks and lifts that are moved from one body of water to another. With regard to watercraft:

1. **Clean** all visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and other prohibited invasive species from watercraft, trailers, and water-related equipment before leaving any water access or shoreland.
2. **Drain** water-related equipment (boat, ballast tanks, portable bait containers, motor) and drain bilge, livewell and baitwell by removing drain plugs before leaving a water access or shoreline property. Keep drain plugs out and water-draining devices open while transporting watercraft.
3. **Dispose** of unwanted bait, including minnows, leeches, and worms, in the trash. It is illegal to release bait into a waterbody or release aquatic animals from one waterbody to another. If you want to keep your bait, you must refill the bait container with bottled or tap water.

Of course, all the above rules still apply to equipment and watercraft brought into Eagle Lake. We must do everything possible to prevent any other invasive species from infesting our lake. There are others out there that are worse than Zebra Mussels.

LID Public Hearing

The County Commissioners once again postponed the hearing due to the pandemic. At this time it is likely the hearing won't occur until next spring.

Two other lakes are pursuing the formation of LIDs, Lida and Tamarac. Lida is facing weed infestations, Zebra Mussels, pea-soup algae and an apparent decline in fish numbers. Tamarac is plagued with various aquatic invaders. A LID would enhance lakeshore property owner efforts to take on environmental issues and opens doors to potential DNR and other conservation grants and funds.

Ditch 52 Redetermination

There are 60 numbered drainage ditches in Otter Tail county. These were created in the early 1900's to improve/increase farming capabilities, created outlets for land-locked water bodies and to drain nuisance wetlands that were considered a detriment to public health. The properties that benefit from the drainage ditches support the maintenance of the ditches. Projects have been underway to redetermine the benefits of each of the 60 drainage ditches. Ditch 52 drains an area running from Jolly Ann lake southwest to the Grant county line and a redetermination of benefits was completed in 2019. During the redetermination process numerous complaints were made by property owners on Jolly Ann and along the drainage ditch that Eagle, Middle and Torgerson Lakes were not considered to be areas benefiting from Ditch 52 since the waters from these lakes drain into Jolly Ann. The final conclusion was that Eagle, Middle and Torgerson Lakes should not be included as benefited areas. I have heard that there is a lawsuit challenging the results of the redetermination.

Boat Parade

The annual boat parade was held on July 4. The official spotter (Perry Kugler) indicated there were 55 participants in the parade. This is one of the highest number of participants that I am aware of. If you were a participant, completed the route and a current ELLA member you are entitled to a free Eagle Lake 2020 beach towel. Contact Tam Fjoslien at 612-280-6168 if you have not picked up your towel. There are only a few remaining and once they are gone that is it.

Towels For Sale

There are a few Eagle Lake 2020 beach towels for sale at \$25 each. There are also a few remaining Eagle Lake 2019 beach towels for sale at \$15 each. Contact Tam Fjoslien.

Maps and Directories

Since the annual meeting for 2020 was cancelled, it was decided to postpone the revision and distribution of directories and maps until next summer.

Officer Elections

Eagle Lake Lakeshore Association officers for the period of 2022-2023 will be elected at the annual meeting next summer. Tam Fjoslien is chairperson for the

elections committee. If you are interested in an officer position on the board, contact her or one of the other election committee members, Kathy Wyman and DuWayne Witt.

Ditch and Park Cleanup

Several property owners decided to conduct the cleanup before the scheduled date. It was performed by Tam Fjoslien, Gary Johnson, Karen Seaberg, Dean & Karen Johnson and Kelly Hepper. Five large garbage bags full of trash were collected. The township picked up the bags for disposal.

Contact Information

Report any changes in lake or home addresses, telephone number(s) and email addresses to eaglelake.ella@gmail.com. The mailing address is ELLA, PO Box 22, Battle Lake, MN 56515. Contact information is important if there is an emergency or if you need to be contacted for some other reason. The directory is shared only with lake property owners and local fire service, ambulance service and the sheriff's department.

ELLA Website

Refer to the lakeshore association website, www.minnesotawaters.org/eaglelakelakeshore for updated information on meetings, events, etc.

Eagle Lake Roadway

The road circling the lake, with the exception of MN 78, is in need of repairs. The township is responsible for such repairs and so far has done nothing except fill some holes with gravel which is a very short term fix. The township has been contacted by several lake property owners and the ELLA board. I would encourage everyone to contact the township complaining about the road. Contact Dennis Schmidt, chairman of the township, at 218-770-1707.

The lakeshore association board is concerned about speeding vehicles on the lake roadway. The association is working with the township to possibly purchase speed indicating signs for North and South Eagle Lake Road.

Thank you

Thanks goes to Jim Beech and son for cleaning of the grate located in the lake at the outlet. Jim reports no Zebra Mussels attached to the grate.

Shoreland Management Ordinance

If you are planning any work or construction on your lake property, refer to this document on the Otter Tail County website. This ordinance will fill you in on all shoreland regulations and what activities may require a permit. Just about anything you may want to do on your property is covered.

Mudpuppies

I have heard several reports of dead mudpuppies in the lake. The DNR has been notified and supposedly looking into the die off. If you see any dead mudpuppies at your location report to Amy Westmark at amy.westmark@state.mn.us.