

# RIPPLE

May 2013

Just as spring is late, the association is also late. We are off to a slow start but your board has been busy over the winter keeping up with association business.

This edition of the Ripple contains comments and updates on the following:

- Water quality.
- 501(C) 3 status.
- Shoreline restoration.
- Initiative Foundation Grant
- Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) inspectors at our four watercraft accesses.
- 2012 AIS surveys at public watercraft accesses.
- A.W. Research Laboratory fly-overs of our lakes.
- 2013 annual meeting.
- Fifty Lakes Days.
- Help Wanted.

## Water Quality

Water quality samples were again collected on our lakes monthly from May to September. Total phosphate, chlorophyll-a and secchi disk readings were taken. This is the tenth year we have participated in this program that is conduct by the Whitefish Property Owners Association (WAPOA). More water quality information will be mentioned later in this newsletter.

## 501(c) 3 Status

The Fifty Lakes Property Owners Association (FLPOA) applied for 501(c) 3 status last July and received word from the IRS that we qualify as a non-profit organization. We also have this status from the state. This means that your dues and any contribution made to FLPOA are **tax deductible**.

## Shoreline Restoration

FLPOA received a \$3600.00 grant from the Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District last year. Two restoration projects were completed last year with that grant. One project was on Kego and the other was on Mitchell. We still have some grant money available for this year. Contact a board member if you are interested in a restoration project.

### Initiative Foundation Grant

FLPOA received a \$5000.00 grant from the Initiative Foundation last year for completing a Lake Management Plan for East and West Lakes. The grant money was spent on or will be spent on the following:

- Point-Intercept-Survey on East Fox Lake.
- Shoreline Restoration Projects.
- TSI fly-overs that were conducted by A.W. Research Lab.
- AIS surveys that were conducted at the four watercraft accesses.
- 501(c)3 expenses and fees.
- AIS watercraft inspectors.
- Fiscal agent fees.

### AIS Inspectors at our four public watercraft accesses

Crow Wing County has organized a program that will put AIS inspectors at our public watercraft accesses. The inspectors will be paid at a rate of approximately \$10.00/hour. It will cost the FLPOA approximately \$15.00/hour. The inspectors will be hired by a temporary employment agency in Brainerd and trained by the DNR. In January 2013 the FLPOA board committed \$3000.00 to this program and we received a \$515.00 grant for the program from the DNR. This will provide approximately 230 hours of inspector time at our four public accesses.

WE ARE ASKING THE MEMBERSHIP FOR DONATIONS TO SUPPORT THIS PROGRAM. FOR EVERY \$15.00 WE RECEIVE WE WILL BE ABLE TO ADD ONE MORE HOUR THAT AN INSPECTOR WILL BE AT ONE OF OUR PUBLIC ACCESSES TO PREVENT THE POSSIBLE SPREAD OF AN AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS). **If you can't volunteer a donation would be greatly appreciated!!**

### 2012 AIS Surveys at our four public accesses

Professional Lakes Management (PLM) conducted two surveys at each of our four public accesses last summer. All the surveys were NEGATIVE – no aquatic invasive species were found. These surveys will again be conducted in the summer of 2013.

### A.W. Research Laboratory fly-overs of our lakes

A.W. Research Lab from Brainerd conducted Trophic Status Index (TSI) flights over all of our lakes in September 2012. These TSI flights provided maps of our lakes that are color coded to indicate potential problem areas that may affect the water quality of our lakes. When these maps were compared to the data that has been collected by the WAPOA water quality program, Mitchell Lake and Daggett Brook were identified as having higher than expected phosphate numbers and were chosen for further study. The City of Fifty Lakes is currently considering additional options for further study of Mitchell and Daggett. The initial fly-over cost was \$2500.00 and the cost was shared between the city and the association. The association contributed \$500.00 of the cost.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be held in August. Details and date will be announced as soon as they are available.

Fifty Lakes Days

Please stop and see us at the FLPOA booth June 29, 2013.

Help Wanted

Your association is always looking for people who are interested in volunteering some precious time to help with the operation of the association. This organization started in the 1990's and has grown to around 200 members. We feel that the programs and activities that we are involved in are important for all the property owners in the city, but we need your help! Please consider giving a little of your time to help the association. We are in need of board members, an editor of our newsletter, volunteer AIS inspectors at our watercraft accesses and the list goes on. The more people involved, the more we can accomplish and the easier it will be for the people involved.

AND FINALLY THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS THAT HELP KEEP THIS ORGANIZATION ALIVE AND RUNNING!!

Comments, questions, please contact a board member.

Also, please visit our website at:

[www.minnesotawaters.org/group/fiftylakes/welcome](http://www.minnesotawaters.org/group/fiftylakes/welcome)

FLPOA  
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Fifty Lakes, Minnesota 56448

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Lake \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/state/zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone - home \_\_\_\_\_ Lake \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I do not have an email address. Dues: \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to "FLPOA"

**Please consider a donation for AIS inspectors.** Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Comment(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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