

# The Ripple

Newsletter of the Fifty Lakes Property Owners Association  
Winter 2011 Edition

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

## FLPOA Fundraising Challenge

**It's not too late! So far, over \$2,000 has been matched by your generous contributions. Please consider making a contribution by the end of 2011.**

In 2009 FLPOA began the task of developing Lake Management Plans (LMP) for our lakes through a program administered by the Initiative Foundation. This program requires property owners to develop a detailed plan for their lake(s) that follows a prescribed format. We are in the process of completing LMPs for Eagle, East and West Fox Lakes. We anticipate submitting these plans to the Initiative Foundation by the end of the year. The Foundation will review these plans and when the review is completed, a \$5000.00 matching grant will be available to our association.

Our challenge is raising the \$5000.00 to match this grant. For every dollar we raise the Initiative Foundation will match up to \$5000.00. We would like to raise the money by asking for contributions from our members.

We are an all-volunteer organization and 100% of the monies will be used for projects that support our vision and mission.

Please consider renewing your membership now or making a contribution to help us meet the \$5000 goal. An average contribution of \$25 per member will get us very close to our goal. Please invite your neighbors to be part of this challenge.

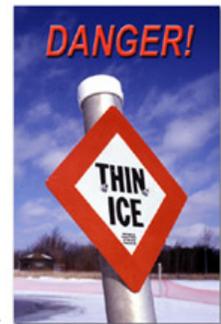
Contribution and renewal form can be found at our website above. Please check it out!

## Ice safety When is ice safe?

There really is no sure answer. You can't judge the strength of ice just by its appearance, age, thickness, temperature, or whether or not the ice

is covered with snow. Strength is based on all these factors -- plus the depth of water under the ice, size of the water body, water chemistry and currents, the distribution of the load on the ice, and local climatic conditions.

**There is no such thing as 100 percent safe ice.**

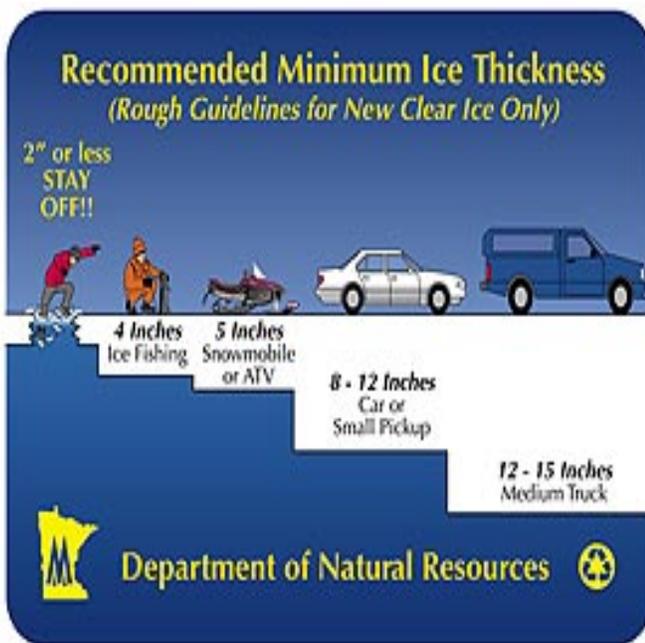


**General ice thickness guidelines****For New, Clear Ice Only**

- 2" or less - STAY OFF
- 4" - Ice fishing or other activities on foot
- 5" - Snowmobile or ATV
- 8" - 12" - Car or small pickup
- 12" - 15" - Medium truck

**Remember that these thicknesses are merely guidelines for new, clear, solid ice. Many factors other than thickness can cause ice to be unsafe.**

From the MN DNR website  
[www.info.dnr@state.mn.us](http://www.info.dnr@state.mn.us).



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## FLPOA 2011 Review

As we plan for 2012 we need to look back on what activities and programs the association was involved in during 2011. The following is a brief summary of these activities and programs.

**Activities:**

1. Fifty Lakes Days.
2. Ice Cream Stand On the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend.
3. Established a website.
4. Conducted one annual meeting and four FLPOA board meetings.
5. Made presentations to the Fifty Lakes Planning Commission in June and the City Council in July.
6. Conducted ongoing communications with other associations, organizations and government agencies.
7. County Timber Harvest. We asked the membership to send emails and/or sign a petition to county officials asking them to follow good management practices for the timber harvest that is being conducted on Crow Wing County Road #1. The association also worked with City of Fifty Lakes on this issue.
8. Point-Intercept-Surveys (PIS) were conducted on East and West Fox Lakes this year. A

- PIS is an inventory of the vegetation or plants in a lake and is a requirement for a Lake Management Plan.
9. We have had talks with the Fifty Lakes Foundation (FLF) about merging our two organizations.
  10. Completed one rain garden project in 2011 and improved four shoreline restoration sites that were established in 2010.
  11. Conducted a successful challenge fundraiser to match a grant that the association will receive when we completed our Lake Management Plans.

### **Programs:**

1. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)
  - AIS surveys were conducted at four public watercraft access sites in Fifty Lakes.
  - In April fourteen people were trained by the DNR to conduct AIS watercraft inspections at watercraft access sites.
  - Printed AIS information was distributed at our four public watercraft access sites.
  - The association received another “Burma Shave Sign” grant from the DNR. The association and the Fifty Lakes Foundation are working together on this.
2. Lake Management Plans: Draft plans for Eagle, East and West Fox Lakes will be submitted to the

Initiative Foundation for approval this year.

3. Water Quality: The association participated in three different water quality programs, with three different organizations.

- Whitefish Area Property Owners Association (WAPOA) program.
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) program.
- Crow Wing Soil and Water District (CWSW) program.

**Thank you to all the volunteers who have helped our association accomplish all these activities and programs.**

### **President’s Comments**

#### **2011 Review:**

Please take some time to look at the 2011 review in this newsletter that lists all the activities and programs the FLPOA was involved in. It was another busy year for the association.

#### **Volunteer and member support:**

Thank you to ALL the volunteers that participated in the activities and programs of the association. Your participation was and is very important, to the success of the association.

Thank you to ALL the members that made a contribution to the challenge fundraiser being conducted to match a grant that the association will receive upon completion of the Lake Management Plans.

So far, thirty-five members have contributed over \$2000 to this fundraiser.

**Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS):**

The AIS surveys that were conducted at the four public watercraft accesses in Fifty Lakes were ALL negative. **No aquatic invasive species were found by these surveys at our four access sites.** Good news!

Fourteen people were trained by the DNR in April 2011 as AIS inspectors at access sites. But the association was unable to establish an inspection program at any of our four public accesses in 2011. This is a program that should be up and running. Each year, new lakes in the state are being added to the DNR AIS infected lakes list.

A good inspection program at watercraft access sites is the first line of defense in preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species. Please consider donating some of your time and help the association establish an AIS inspection program. More information will follow this spring about this program. Check our website.

**Newsletter:**

Starting in 2012 the newsletter will be distributed electronically. Please make sure you include your email address on your 2012 membership renewal form. If you have a neighbor or know someone who doesn't have an email address please notify one of our board members.

**Water Quality:**

See article in this newsletter – “Snap Shot” – 2011 Water Quality.

**Lake Management Plans (LMP):**

LMPs for East and West Fox Lakes and an Action Plan for all the lakes in Fifty Lakes were submitted to the Initiative Foundation for review and approval in November. The LMPs and the Action Plan were approved by the Initiative Foundation the first week in December. We are currently making application for a matching grant from the Initiative Foundation that is part of the LMP process. We will post the LMP and Action Plan on our website when we receive approval for the grant.

There are many other items or topics I could make comments on, but these are probability “The Big Ticket Items” for this year.

Please check out the association's new website that was established in 2011 for more information. The association considers the website as an important component of our education program and will be looking at it as our main means of communication with the membership in the future.

Thank you members, volunteers, and board members for your support and hard work.

Ken Neihart

President, FLPOA

## Shaving Cream Sign Idea Fights Invasives

Fifty Lakes, Minnesota – December 5, 2011 – The installation of “Burma Shave” style signs to fight the spread of invasive species was announced by the Fifty Lakes Property Owners Association on Monday.

Patterned after Burma Shave signs that were found throughout the US during the 1930s – 1960s, the signs feature a rhyming slogan to raise awareness of the threat of invasive species and how to prevent their spread. Carol Jansen of McGregor submitted the slogan during a contest on KLKS radio in 2010. Her slogan reads: 10,000 Lakes/Each a Beauty/Clean Your Boat/Do Your Duty! /Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!

“After the recent discovery of zebra mussels in Gull Lake and one mussel in Pelican Lake, it’s more important than ever for lake users to clean, drain and dry their boats and trailers before entering a lake,” said Mark Johnson, creator of the signs. “We’re finding that lake users are not following each of these steps. Many lake users are draining their boats, but they’re not cleaning and drying their boats and trailers properly before entering another lake. It’s up to each of us to take these actions and that’s the message on our signs.”

The signs are located along County Road 136 in Fifty Lakes. The Minnesota DNR assisted with funding through a matching grant.

The Fifty Lakes Property Owners Association is an organization of 200 property owners whose primary mission is to preserve and protect the lakes in the Fifty Lakes area. The organization assisted the Kimble Lake Association with a similar project in 2011.

From Mark Johnson, FLPOA Board Member



**“Snap Shot” – 2011 Water Quality**

The following water quality data reflects the water clarity reading from our lakes from a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) program. The program is called “The Citizen’s Monitor Program.”

The secchi disk measures water clarity and the results are expressed in feet. The higher the reading, the better the water clarity.

**Butterfield:**

Yearly average since 1998 is 14.4.  
2011 average was 16.2 ft.

**Eagle:**

Main Bay  
Yearly average since 1996 is 10.3  
2011 average was 9.5 ft.

West Bay  
Yearly average since 2009 is 11.0  
2011 average was 10.2 ft.

East Bay  
Yearly average since 2009 is 10.0  
2011 average was 9.7 ft.

**East Fox:**

Yearly average since 1992 is 17.1  
2011 average was 16.1.

**Kego:**

Yearly average since 1998 is 8.9.  
We don’t have a volunteer from Kego Lake who is participating in the MPCA program. If there is anyone who would like to be part of this program for Kego, please contact a board member.

**Mitchell:**

Yearly average since 1998 is 8.4  
2011 average was 6.1 ft.

**West Fox:**

Yearly average since 1986 is 16.2  
2011 average was 14.1 ft.

As you can see our lakes have different water clarity readings. Size, depth, shape and size of the littoral zone are some factors that may or may not affect the water clarity in a lake. Some other factors that can affect the clarity are:

1. Annual precipitation.
2. Runoff from streams, brooks, etc.
3. Groundwater.
4. Runoff from surrounding land.
5. Wave action from wind and boat traffic.
6. Boat traffic that stirs up the bottom sediments that release nutrients into the lake.

The other water quality program that we participate in is a program that is conducted by the Whitefish Area Property Owners Association (WAPOA). In addition to measuring water clarity this program measures total phosphate and chlorophyll-a. It gives a more in-depth analysis of the water quality in a lake.

Data for 2011 from this program was not available at this time. We will put this data on our website when we receive it.

**Help Wanted**

FLPOA is looking for a new newsletter editor. The newsletter is generally published 3 times per year. With the new website in place, the job has become much easier! The biggest part now involves sending an email to our membership notifying all that the website has gone live with the newest publication of the newsletter. Please contact Dan Wright or any board member if interested in helping out your local association. Dan will be resigning this position at the annual meeting taking place in the summer of 2012. Thanks!

**2012 Board Members**

Ken Neihart (W.Fox/Pres)  
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Gary Campbell (W.Fox)  
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Mark Johnson (Eagle/VP)  
markwarrenjohnson@yahoo.com 612-866-6413  
Judy Miller (Mitchell, Sect)  
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**Member Families by Lake**

E.Fox	20
W.Fox	51
Eagle	33
Kego	17
Mitchell	46
Butterfield	7
Other	19

Total Members **193**

(144 members are current through 2011 and beyond!)  
Please renew now!

**Is YOUR Membership Current?**

Your membership expires on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Dues are \$15 per year payable to “FLPOA”.  
Your membership is important!  
Thank you for your support!

**Email address—Important!**

Please be sure you have a current, valid email address on record with FLPOA. As of the end of 2011, we will stop mailing newsletters to members. All information will be obtained through our new website. Dues may continue to be mailed to the PO Box in town with a renewal form available on the website. If you do not have access to the website, PLEASE contact Dan Wright to work out some other kind of arrangement. Thanks!

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