

LAKE ALEXANDER PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2016

From President Dr. Bill's Desk
June 2016

Dear LAPOA Members,

It is the day after Memorial weekend 2016, and summer is beginning... The ice has been out for some time, and water temps. are hovering around 60 degrees! With all the rain we have received over the last week of May, it would seem that we ended up with about a normal amount of precipitation for the month, and lake levels are about the same as they were in late April, not too high or low, at least in my opinion. Again this spring, there have not been an abundance of floating bog issues, and that is always a welcome scenario.

And similar to last winter, this past winter lacked any significant snowfall and any continuous snow cover, and ice on was around Dec. 20?! So overall we only had ice on the lake for just over 3 months, arguably one of the shortest periods in recent memory! I didn't hear of any major ice heave issues, nor did I hear of many, if any, frozen septic systems. So more welcomed scenarios to enter summer on, and we look forward to seeing all of you, our summer guests, returning to the Lake. I would like to take the opportunity to bring to your attention our upcoming summer gathering: **our LAPOA annual meeting is set to occur in combination with the Lake Alexander Lake Improvement District meeting, on**

Saturday, July 9, 2016. Kindly mark that date on your calendars and look for more information in the newsletter. Further, our website address continues to be found at **minnesotawaters.org** where you should click on the link on the left to Lakes and River Groups and then click on page 10 to find the Lake Alexander Property Owners Association.

In closing, I would like to finish out this 2016 President's Spring Letter. I again look forward to seeing all of you around Lake Alexander this summer and hope many of you can make it to the annual meeting on July 9. Finally, I want to take the opportunity to remind all of you reading this that our Association continues to be member driven, so I invite you to please share your thoughts with me or any other LAPOA Board member, and once again thank all of you for your continued support of the Lake Alexander Property Owners Association!!

I wish all of you an enjoyable summer
on the Lake,

Dr. Bill Faber, President

Lakeview Drive Update

Major work is planned for Lakeview drive this year, with a reconstruction of the roadway. A proposed liner for the culvert and adding riprap to the sides of the retaining walls.

LAKE ALEXANDER PROPERTY OWNERS BOARD MEMBERS

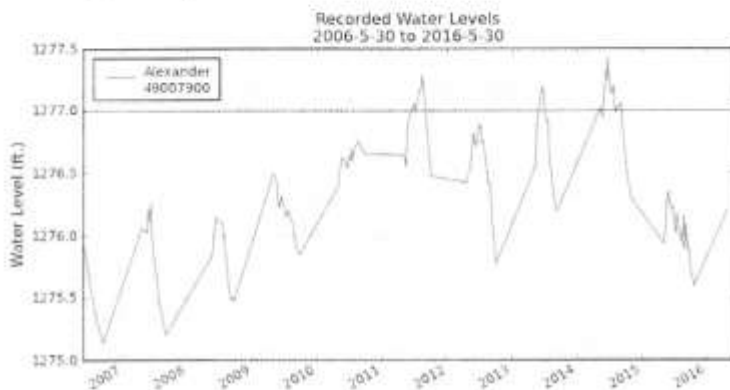
Dr. Bill Faber575-2328
Margaret Flolid575-2470 or 632-4451
Darline Molde575-2200
Bob Andersen575-2178 or (952) 903-0005
Chuck Schiemo575-3169

Dave Schleichert575-3153
Matt Skjonsby575-2961
Alice Sunde575-2214
Tom Trutwin575-3302

Lake Levels Matt Skjonsby, Board Member

We had mild weather and very late ice last fall. The lake finally froze on 12-19-15 and the ice was off by 3-30-16. The only times that the lake froze later, since 1956, was 12-20-2001 and 12-21-1998, making this the 3rd latest ice in. This was also the 3rd earliest the ice went out in that same time period. The two earlier dates were 3-28-2000 and 3-24-2012.

The lake level, according to the DNR website, last October 14th was 1275.68'. I found it interesting that, if you added up all of the readings taken since 1956, and average them out, you get 1275.679'. So, it appears that the lake level last fall was about average. Over the last 10 years, the average level was 1276.33' and on 4-26-16 the reading taken was 1276.20' just slightly below the average from the last 10 years (see chart below).



You may notice that there is a line at 1277.0' on this chart. This represents the Ordinary High Water Level (OHWL). We have actually exceeded that level several times in the last 5 years, but the lake level as stated above, is currently very close to "average".

See also the explanation of OHWL from the DNR's website.

Ordinary High Water Level (OHWL)

The Ordinary High Water Level (OHWL) is a term that many lake, wetland, and river property owners hear, but it is often misunderstood. The definition of OHWL from Minnesota Statutes is provided below. **It is very important** to contact your local DNR Waters area hydrologist for a correct OHWL determination before attempting to alter your shoreline.

Minnesota Statutes 103G.005

Subd.14. Ordinary high water level. "Ordinary high water level" means the boundary of waterbasins, watercourses, public waters, and public waters wetlands, and:

1. the ordinary high water level is an elevation delineating the highest water level that has been maintained for a

Legislator Contact Information

Property owners are encouraged to contact our state elected officials and request them to explore ways to provide additional funding for the protection and treatment of aquatic invasive vegetation and species.

The following is a list of legislative contact information.

STATE

Governor Mark Dayton

130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd; St. Paul, MN 55155
Toll Free: 1-800-657-3717 Fax: 651-797-1850
Email: mark.dayton@state.mn.us Website: mn.gov/governor

Representative Ron Kresha, District 9B

329 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd; St. Paul, MN 55155
Phone: 651-296-4247 Cell: 320-761-6133
Email: rep.ron.kresha@house.mn (Home: Little Falls)

Senator Paul E. Gazelka, District 9

75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Room 325
St. Paul, MN 55155
Phone: 651-296-4875 Fax: 651-296-6511 Cell: 218-821-9287
Email: sen.paul.gazelka@senate.mn

FEDERAL

Senator Amy Klobuchar (DFL)

www.klobuchar.senate.gov
1200 Washington Ave. S. Ste 250, Mpls, MN 55415
PO Box 4146, St. Paul, MN 55104
Toll Free 1-888-224-9043
To send email visit: klobuchar.senate.gov/emailamy.cfm

Senator Al Franken (DFL)

DC Office
320 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Website: www.franken.senate.gov
Phone 202-224-5641
• St. Paul Office
60 East Plato Blvd, Ste 220; St. Paul, MN 55107
Phone: 651-221-1016

US Representative Rick Nolan, District 8

2447 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-6211
Website: www.nolan.house.gov
• Brainerd Office
501 Laurel Street, Brainerd, MN 56401
Phone: 218-454-4078

sufficient period of time to leave evidence upon the landscape, commonly the point where the natural vegetation changes from predominantly aquatic to predominantly terrestrial;

2. for watercourses, the ordinary high water level is the elevation of the top of the bank of the channel; and

3. for reservoirs and flowages, the ordinary high water level is the operating elevation of the normal summer pool.

As LA LID Treasurer I am pleased to report that our finances are in good shape. We ended 2015 with a balance that was about \$20,000 higher than our projections—largely due to significantly reduced bog expenses. My projection for the end of 2016 should be about a \$3,000 reduction in our bank balance as we are still spending slightly above our \$200 per riparian (lake front) parcel (now numbering 459 tax payers). Currently we are aware of only one relatively small bog up in the Northeast corner thoroughfare area. While we hopefully may not have a significant bog expense this year we certainly will be spending close to three times what we spent last year to manage invasive Curly-leaf pondweed which may overtake the amount we have spent on managing invasive Eurasian milfoil. Invasive Curly-leaf pondweed now predominates in the thoroughfare area extending down the South shoreline and in the Southeast corner of Lake Alexander. Additionally a small patch near the north Blue Front area will also be treated by the end of May 2016.

Overall good news is plentiful! We joined with four other local lake LIDs (Lakes Alexander, Crookneck, Fish Trap & Shamineau) working in a collaborative effort we successfully got a \$25,700 grant from Morrison County for public education. As the four lakes participating this will result in new signage at

New Signage for Public Landings

The Quad Lakes group has received a grant of \$25,700 from Morrison County to provide aquatic invasive species (AIS) signage at the public landings for the following lakes: Fish Trap Lake, Crookneck Lake, Shamineau Lake, and Lake Alexander

Working with Morrison County, Minnesota DNR and the Quad Lakes group, signs will be installed at the public landings as well as a number of the resorts/campgrounds located on the above lakes. Signs will show where on the lake AIS is present, maps will be color coded to specify which type of AIS is present. Lake Alexander at this time has Eurasian watermilfoil which was first documented in 2003 and Curry-leaf pondweed, the first documentation of Curly-leaf pondweed is unknown. It is hoped that if boaters know the locations of AIS they would avoid these areas, thus reducing the spread of AIS.

The plan is to have the signs updated each year showing the change in the spread or reduction of AIS. In addition, a lake wide AIS, on-site point intercept vegetation survey of all littoral areas will be conducted as part of this funding.

Chuck Schiemo, Board Member

public lake accesses warning (with graphic maps) where the invasive weeds have been found. Lake specific informative invasive species brochures will be distributed at local businesses. Plus we will not have to pay for the invasive weed surveys as the County will be picking up the tab which can run about \$5,000 every few years. Additionally we understand that the DNR on a rotating basis will be stationing interns at these accesses periodically spot checking boats and trailers for compliance with existing laws. You and your lake bound guests may be able to save some change by making sure your drain plug in your boat is out when being trailered (\$500 fine) and no weeds dangle from your boat trailer (\$100 fine). Finally while our traditional DNR grant for assistance in treating invasive weeds will certainly not be as great as previous years (due to significant cutbacks at the state level) we are still anticipating about \$5,000 in assistance again in 2016.

The DNR has rated our lake at “high risk” in a number of areas primarily due to significant public use and an underwater environment that has both particularly suitable water conditions and substrate (rubble and rock). Like our neighbors—ours is an ideal lake for possible future invasive Zebra Mussel infestation. More detailed information can be obtained by checking out the Morrison County Planning & Zoning web site. Let’s all do our part for our local lakes environment helping to ensure greater enjoyment and stable lake values and LID assessments. If not already a member of the Lake Alexander Property Owners Association please consider joining as they are able to immediately, favorably impact our beautiful lake beyond just managing invasive species.

We encourage all to participate and attend our annual LA LID meeting immediately after the Lake Alexander Property owners Association meeting on Saturday morning, July 9, 2016 at the Scandia Valley Township Hall. Amongst other official businesses at our meeting we will be electing three LA LID board members, reviewing the past years LA LID activity and planning for next year. On behalf of your LA LID Board: don’t be all wet—as we hope to see you there!

Lake Alexander Lake Improvement District Board Members

Dr. Bill Faber, Chairman	575-2338
Ron Wieber, Treasurer	575-3326
Tom Bjorge	575-2553
Chuck Schiemo	575-3169
John Piper	575-3384

Updates from Morrison County Soil and Water Conservation District

Buffer Law: This passed and all protected waters must be buffered by a minimum of 50 feet of vegetation by November 2017. This affects lake properties if there is farming to the water. Lawns, pasture, and hay is an acceptable buffer.

Drainage Management Plan: We are going to do a complete culvert inventory on every road in Morrison County. Collecting data on elevation, size and condition. That inventory will then be layered with LIDAR to determine where drainage is not efficient. We'll be able to help townships and road authorities address the problem sites and correct how water is moving across the landscape. A result may be a county ordinance on agricultural tiling and drainage. With the increase in tiling and the large storm events that are now the new normal, we have a lot of difficult situations in the county.

Water Plan: We are in the stages of re-writing the Morrison County Local Water Plan. It will be redesigned to address the five watersheds in the county. A draft will be available in late summer with public hearings held in the fall. Once it is in final form, it needs to be approved by the State, and then adopted by the county.

All lake associations and LIDs are encouraged to submit ideas for water protection and restoration. If it's not in the plan, we seldom can get funding for initiatives that are not addressed in the plan so please encourage your lake association to be aware of the need to speak up. Our survey is available on line at www.morrisonswcd.org.

We have little funding to offer for projects right now but bad erosion problems may be able to be funded. We do not do rock rip rap, but we can do riparian buffers if they can be a minimum of 20' wide and native plants. We can also likely assist with rain gardens where feasible.

Helen McLennan
Morrison SWCD
1676 Heron Road
Little Falls, MN 56345
320-616-2479



Chemical Monitoring

The Lake Alexander Property Owners Association has been monitoring the actual lake water for 12 years now and the run off from the potato fields on the north side of the lake for 4 years. The lake water has shown an interesting trend, in that the lake water is actually increasing in clarity. The mean Secchi disk reading for the lake was 14.9 for 2015. This is up from 10 ft. when the water monitoring first started. The clarity of our lake is better than 24 other lakes in our watershed. Our Chlorophyll-a reading and Total Phosphorus readings continue to fall within normal ranges. These numbers indicate the nutrient richness of our lake. If you would like to see more data you can go to the RMB Laboratories web site and click on Lake Monitoring Programs.

The results for this year's potato farms run off was not yet available for this newsletter. The results should be available at the annual meeting. Water samples were not obtained last year, due to the fact that the spring thaw was very slow and there was very little snow, resulting in no run-off reaching the lake. Test results from previous years indicated that the run-off falls within all acceptable water quality measurements.

Alice Sunde
Board Treasurer

Zebra Mussels

The DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Program requests your help in the early detection of Zebra Mussels in Minnesota lakes. Specifically we are asking lakeshore property owners for their assistance in monitoring shorelines for new Zebra Mussel infestations. Any mussels found should be photographed, collected, and **reported**. You can report an invasive species by contacting your regional DNR AIS specialist (<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/contacts.html>)

In the earliest states of an infestation, mussel densities may be very low. You may find only a single Zebra Mussel on your entire dock or boatlift. Zebra Mussels have a characteristic shape and pattern which are distinguishable from our native mussels species (see photo). The best places to look are areas of equipment that stay submerged in water throughout the summer such as the wheels of a roll-in dock or swim platform anchors. Also, know the laws regarding drying water-related equipment (not boats) 21 days prior to transport. For more information on transporting docks, lifts, and water-related equipment, visit: (http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/shoreland_owners.html).

We appreciate your assistance and support in preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species in Minnesota and in assisting us in our efforts for the early detection of AIS. With the help of local citizens, we can identify and respond to new infestations as quickly as possible. Please visit our website (<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquatic/index.html>) for more information.