June was a busy month at the lake and July promises to be the same. In this newsletter, we’ve recapped a number of events – the retention pond planting, the River and Lakes Fair, and more. Plus we look ahead to the 4th of July parade and triathlon and the LLPOA Annual Meeting and Potluck on Sat., July 25. Read on!

Here, I’d like to talk about something of special interest to lake residents, namely issues about the lake level. At the most recent board meeting, the board authorized the formation of a new committee to deal with questions about the lake outlet, which is on the southwest side of the lake. The purpose of the new six-to-eight member Outlet Committee, consisting of representatives from around the lake, will be to review our current operating policy on the outlet and to make recommendations to the board for a formal written policy.

What is the current operating policy of the LLPOA on the lake outlet? Our policy is to keep the culvert and the lake outlet open. This plays out in three ways: First, the board accepts and supports as correct the elevation where the culvert has been placed, as confirmed by the DNR hydrologist and the Aitkin County Highway Engineering department. The culvert was set to allow water to flow out before it reaches the Ordinary High Water elevation of 1,264.6 ft.

Secondly, the board has had a long-standing policy to support the removal of beaver if they inhibit outlet flow. Third, it has been the practice of the board to call for volunteers to watch for and remove any natural, wildlife or man-made obstructions to the water flow. This group of volunteers, called the Ditch Maintenance Taskforce (also known as the Beaver Control Committee), (Go to page 2)
President’s Letter (Cont.)

provides this service with members doing daily checks on the outlet. The LLPOA Board carefully follows the law to maintain the outlet and works closely with the DNR and Aitkin County to be sure all actions are appropriate and without vigilantism.

As you can imagine, this is a slippery slope for the lake association to have a policy that serves the ecology of the lake while balancing the needs of residents with low-lying lots or in shallow bays. And —oh yes— the unpredictability of Mother Nature! Long-timers on the lake have said it is a “no win” situation for the lake association to take on but the current board feels that this issue needs an open dialogue in which to examine the policy. So we as a lake community are either part of the solution or part of the problem! Let’s work to be part of the solution.

If you are interested in serving on the Outlet Committee, contact Steve Frazier at sfrazier@usjet.net to submit your name to the LLPOA Board for their consideration at their July board meeting on July 11. The Outlet Committee and the Ditch Maintenance Taskforce will operate under LLPOA’s Water Quality Team.

Although the Future of Lone Lake Planning Session held June 13 was lightly attended, its recommendations reach far. The newly revised Lone Lake Management Plan was distributed, reviewed and modified to bring it up-to-date as of June 2015. Take a moment to look at it, as it is the framework for our actions as an organization. Members wishing to have a copy should contact me at sfrazier@usjet.net, Jennifer O’Neill at jennyanyspot@gmail.com or download a copy from www.lonelake.org.

Thank you for your membership and support of LLPOA and your involvement to preserve, enhance and protect Lone Lake for the future! We’ll see you on the lake, Steve Frazier – LLPOA President.

On June 6, twenty Lone Lake volunteers dug ground and planted wild flowers, native trees and shrubs, and aquatic plants along the hillside and in the retention pond along 297th Lane. The planting will help prevent soil erosion to keep Lone Lake’s water quality high.
LLPOA Annual Meeting and Potluck, Sat., July 25. Set up at 10:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at the Preiner Storage Facility at 30353 Oak Avenue. This is your LLPOA business meeting…and a time for socializing, good food and fun. PLUS: Minnow races and prizes.

Potluck lunch: If your last name begins with A-H please bring hot dishes or sides; I-O desserts; and P-Z salads.

“Northwoods Niche” presentation by the Audubon Center of the Northwoods features appearances of inhabitants of a northwoods ecosystem including an owl, porcupine and more animals!

A good crowd turned out for the 19th annual Aitkin Rivers & Lakes Fair on Sat., June 20. According to event organizer, Diane Weisser, there was something for everyone, whether your interest was loons, wolves, bats or lake-bottom organisms.

DNR's Non-Game Wildlife expert, Carrol Henderson, presented new information gathered from transmitters placed on loons in 2013-2015. Information about their migration and other data can be found on the www.usgs.gov loon tracking website.

The Audubon Center of the Northwoods explored a spectrum of animals found in a north woods ecosystem. Tom Jones, DNR specialist, talked about zebra mussels and their current and potential impact on Lake Mille Lacs; DNR's Rich Rezenka spoke about invasive species.

The Rivers & Lakes team give special thanks to Lone Lake residents Jerry and Julie Nelson, Dave Scott, and Brian Smeltzer, who volunteered to set up and/or work at the event.

You may be lucky, like Bev and Rick Napurski are, to find a turtle choosing your driveway to lay its eggs. To preserve our turtle population, help them safely cross our roads. Read more about turtles at http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/reptiles_amphibians/helping-turtles-roads.html

With over 35 years as a non-game wildlife champion, Carrol Henderson, Minnesota DNR, talked about loon migration patterns at the Aitkin Rivers and Lakes Fair, June 20.
**DNR releases new results of every 5-year fishing survey**

**Lone Lake healthy; fishery holds its own or in slow decline since mid-1980’s**

By Marty Cook

Did you notice the DNR on Lone Lake last week? During the period June 15 through June 18, DNR representatives were on Lone Lake conducting a fish survey. This survey was made up of 9 gill nettings and 9 trap nettings in various locations around the lake. Although the official results will be published later this year, local DNR representative Rick Bruesewitz sat down with me for an early (and unofficial) look at what they found.

First, a few facts about our lake...

Lone Lake has a total water area of 448 acres. The littoral area (or that area near shore where sunlight penetrates all the way to the sediment and allows aquatic plants to grow; or that area around the lake which is 15’ or less deep) is 148 acres. That’s about 33% of the entire lake. The maximum depth is 60’ and there are 5.64 miles of shoreline around the lake. The fetch (or the longest unbroken stretch of open water on the lake) is 1.67 miles on a 270 degree orientation. The latest DNR water clarity reading (using a Secchi disk) was 15’ on June 15. (Lake resident Dave Scott regularly evaluates clarity and he reports that it has been as deep as 30’+ at times. Early June brought some warm weather and with it...algae bloom...which reduces water clarity for a period of time.)

Two important ingredients for healthy fish populations are water temperatures (see chart on this page) and dissolved oxygen. Dissolved oxygen was (as Rick put it “like a trout lake”) 7.7 parts per million on the surface and 5.0 parts per million at 45’ deep. This is an excellent rating for any lake.

Now for the fish survey results (unofficial at this time) and what trends they may suggest. The DNR has conducted fish surveys on Lone Lake every five years since 1949.

There are 13 categories of fish registered in the survey. These include Black Bullhead, Black Crappie, Bluegill, Bowfin (Dogfish), Brown Bullhead, Hybrid Sunfish, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Pumpkinseed, Rock Bass, Walleye, White Sucker, and Yellow Bullhead. While all of these fish are important to a healthy and balanced lake ecosystem, I’m going to focus my comments on the fish almost everyone is interested in – Crappie, Panfish (Hybrid Sunfish, Green Sunfish, Pumpkinseed and Bluegill), Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike and Walleye.

**Black Crappie** – The number of fish netted remains relatively consistent over the entire period 1949 til now. For the 2015 survey, the size ranges from 6” – 11” with the mean length being 7.41” and a mean weight of .41 lbs. Of the 18 nettings in 2015, the DNR caught 25 Black Crappies. (Go to next page)
Panfish – Lone Lake is definitely a panfish lake! The number of fish netted has remained stable when compared to previous surveys in the last 10 years but has taken a significant drop from the 80’s and 90’s. In 2015 198 fish were captured in both types of nettings with almost 90% of the fish taken via trap nets in shoreline waters 8’ or less. The size ranges from 4” – 8” with the mean length being 5.76” and a mean weight of...well, we don't weigh our panfish, we just eat them!

Largemouth Bass – The number of fish netted remains stable when measured against previous surveys. The size ranges from 8”– 16” with the mean length being 12.53” and a mean weight of almost a pound. Between the 18 nettings in 2015, 12 fish were taken.

Northern Pike – The number of fish netted continue a downward trend when compared to previous surveys in the 80’s and 90’s. The size ranges widely vary from 12” to 25” with a few in the 30+” ranges. According to DNR staff, it would appear that Lone Lake is getting fewer, but larger, Northern Pike. Between the 18 nettings in 2015, 73 Northern Pike were taken, keeping this species a prevalent fish in Lone Lake.

Walleye – The number of fish netted are relatively stable when compared to previous surveys in the last 20 years but down from the 80’s and 90’s. The size ranges from 12” – 22” with the mean length being almost 19” for the deeper nets and 14” for the shallower nets. Mean weights varied from 1.01 lbs. in trap nets (shoreline) to 2.44 lbs. in gill nets (deeper water). Between the 18 nettings, 11 Walleyes were caught.

The graph below illustrates survey data for these particular fish species since 1949.

*Lone Lake Fish Populations (based on DNR fish nettings)*

*Panfish includes Bluegill, Pumpkinseed, Hybrid and Green Sunfish.

One last note on Northern Pike: the DNR is considering some new legislation or regulations for Northern Pike and should have a proposal out in the fall of 2015. This legislation would cut the state into three zones (Southern, Central and Northern) and would place possession and size limitations on Northern Pike. These limitations would be different depending upon which zone you are fishing in. Look for more information in the newspapers and on the DNR website later this summer or early fall.
Residents Dave Scott and Jerry Nelson collect and report precipitation, lake level and water clarity data. They take Secchi disk readings regularly throughout the ice-free season to measure water clarity. Marty Cook provides the graphical representation.

Don’t miss photos and news posted by Lone Lakers on our Facebook page. facebook.com/lonelakepoa

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**Lone Lake Property Owners Association Board of Directors**

Steve Frazier – President

**Open** – Secretary – Association History

Karen Frazier – Treasurer – Membership

Jennifer O’Neill – Communications Director

Bev Napurski – Director – Website Coordinator – Facebook

Bob Kosloski – Director

**Open** – Director


David Wilke – Land Use and Zoning Team Leader

Marty Cook – Fisheries and Wildlife Team Leader

Linda Szymanski – AIS Team Leader & Inspection Coordinator

LLPOA P.O. Box 10, Aitkin, MN 56431

Visit our website at: [www.lonelake.org](http://www.lonelake.org) Feel free to email us at lonelakepoa@gmail.com or like us on Facebook.com/lonelakepoa.
2015 Program Calendar

The Lone Lake Property Owners Association invites you to take part in all of the activities planned for the summer of 2015. The association is also seeking member participation to help with our programs, projects and teams. Together we can preserve and protect our beautiful lake and also have fun as a lake community. Listed below are this year’s events:

May 8-10th  Opening of Fishing Inspections  DNR AIS Inspectors at the Public Access.

May 9th  Spring Road Cleanup – Coffee and Rolls on Saturday, May 9th at 9 a.m. at the beach.

May 22-25th  Memorial Weekend Boat LLPOA AIS Inspections at Public Access

May 25th  2014 LLPOA Membership Drive begins with Memorial Day Weekend

May 30th  DNR Boat Inspection Training and Certification on Saturday, May 30th, starting at 9AM at the Hazelton Township Hall. Pre-registration is required. Contact Walt Weisser at 218.927.3214 or dwonlone@gmail.com to register. Certification is good for three years.

June 6th  LLPOA Retention Pond and Hillside Planting of wet-meadow plants, wildflowers, shrubs and seedlings on June 6, 2015 at 8 a.m. until completion at 297th Lane. All invited.

June 13th  The Future of Lone Lake Planning Session – Location Preiner’s storage facility at 30353 Oak Ave. 9:00-12:00 – Lunch served.

June 20th  Rivers and Lakes Fair – Aitkin High School on Saturday, June 20th from 9:00 to 2:00.

July 3-5th  Independence Weekend Boat LLPOA Volunteer Inspections at Public Access

July 4th  Annual Boat Parade – Meet on Saturday, July 4th at 12:00 noon at the Public Access Bay for the parade of pontoons, runabouts and dock contests. – Post your Lot # on the front of your boat and/or dock.

July 4th  Lone Lake Triathlon – Saturday, July 4th with a Starting Time at 8:30 am at the Swimming Beach. No prior registration required and teams of 2 & 3 are welcome.

July 25th  Annual Picnic and Meeting – Saturday, July 25th at 11:00 at the Preiner Storage Facility at 30353 Oak Avenue. Look for the LLPOA Sign!

Sept. 4-7th  Labor Day Weekend AIS Volunteer Boat Inspections at Public Access

Sept. 12th  Fall Road Cleanup – Meet on Saturday, September 12th at 9 a.m. at the Swimming Beach.
2015 LLPOA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please fill out this form completely so that we can verify our records and include it with a $25 check, payable to the LLPOA. The membership form and dues may be given to the membership volunteer, at the Annual Meeting or mailed to the LLPOA, P.O. Box 10, Aitkin, MN 56431. Your check will serve as your receipt. Dues run from January 1st to December 31st. Thank you.

We have already confirmed and/or updated our contact information for the Lone Lake Roster

Print Name(s)_____________________________________________Lot(s) ______

Address:_____________________________________________________________

City ________________________________ State ____________Zip ___________

Lake Address_____________________________________ Aitkin, MN 56431

Home Phone______________ Lake Phone ______________ Cell
Phone(s)______________ Email Address_______________________________________

I am/ we are making an additional Tax Deductible Donation of ___________ to be used for the Aquatic Invasive Species Education, Prevention and Treatment Fund.

I am/ we are willing to work a 3-hour shift at the Public Access to inspect for aquatic invasive species on ___Opening of Fishing Weekend, ___Memorial Day weekend, ___4th of July Weekend, ___Labor Day Weekend. (We will contact you to pick a shift!)

_____I cannot do the inspection but am willing to donate $45 to hire someone to do my shift.

I/we would like to get more involved in the LLPOA. Please check areas of interest:

___ Serve on LLPOA Board ___ Lake Management Plan Team (5 hrs.)
___ Water Quality Team (5 Hours) ___ Lake Monitoring Team (10 Hours)
___ Invasive Species Team (5 Hours) ___ Water Surface Use Team (5 Hours)
___ Land Use & Zoning Team (5 Hours) ___ Public Access Team (5 Hours)
___ Birdhouse Kit Team (3 Hours) ___ Aquatic Vegetation Team (5 Hours)
___ Culvert Monitoring (5 Hours) ___ Loon Nest Team (5 Hours)
___ Wildlife Management Team (5 Hours) ___ History Team (5 Hours)
___ Short Term Special Project/Event (3 Hours) ___ Membership Drive Team (3 Hours)
___ Boat Inspection (3 Hours) ___ Fall Road Cleanup (2 Hours)
___ Sing with the Lone Lake Singers (5 Hours) ___ Other_______________________