



NEWS BRIEF

Spring
Road Clean Up
is Saturday at 9
a.m.



SPRING 2018 ICE OUT: MAY 3



Don't forget to attend:
**AITKIN RIVER AND LAKES
FAIR**
JUNE 16
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Aitkin High School

Welcome to spring — Finally!

Steve Frazier - LLPOA President



Hi Lone Lake members and friends,

Spring has finally arrived on Lone Lake and your lake association is gearing up for another great summer. Lake ice melted on May 3. Our latest ice-off date on our records was May 11, 2013.

What's ahead for the summer? The year begins with the road clean up event on Saturday. We start at 9 a.m. at the beach for coffee, divide into teams and have a group photo. The brush has been cut and cleared so cleaning should be much easier. This is a great way to meet other lake neighbors and to help keep the environment around Lone Lake clean and beautiful. Please come and join us this year.

Have you seen LLPOA's new website? Go to www.LoneLake.org and be amazed. It is a wealth of information and visual stimulation, plus you can pay your dues and make donations online through PayPal. Thanks to Bev Napurski for all the work that has gone into its design and implementation.

At the final board of directors meeting last fall the board decided to have the county AIS inspectors take over the AIS Inspections for the coming summer months. The members' survey conducted last year showed that 53 percent of you favored having Aitkin County provide this important boat inspection function. The cost is about \$750 per year and provides weekly coverage throughout the spring, summer and fall boating and fishing season. If you would like to contribute funds to support AIS educational and inspection efforts, you can do so online or with your check for this year's LLPOA membership.

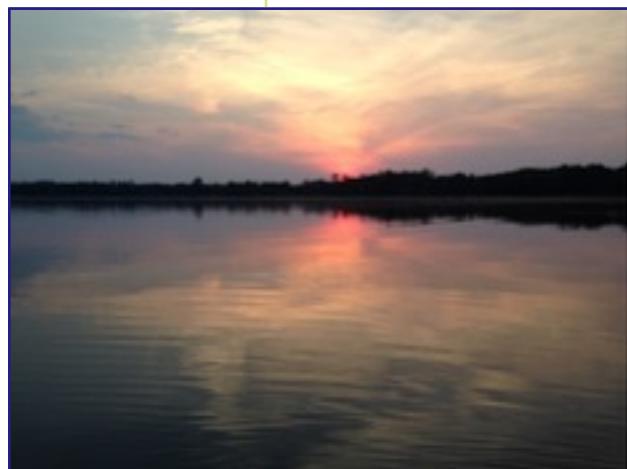
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President's letter (continued)

Importantly, everyone has a role to play to keep the lake pristine. Don't forget to inspect your boat every time you go in and out of the water. Drain all water from your watercraft (this goes for jet skis, kayaks, paddleboards, too) and dry them. This will help keep invasive species from invading our lake and spreading. Tell your friends and family who come up to visit, too.

Finally, on a sad note, we said goodbye to several of our members who passed away in the past few months. Roy and Jane Carlson and Gladys Honnold were all long-time members of the lake association and were active in our organization over the years. They will be remembered at our annual meeting on July 21.

Thank you for your support of our lake association and we'll see you on the lake! - Steve Frazier



Aquatic Invasive Species: What can we do?

This article is from the Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group newsletter, and was written by **Steve Hughes, Aitkin County AIS Coordinator**.

It is an informative background piece on the efforts being made by the state, county and lake associations to contain the spread of aquatic invasive species in lakes and streams.

As we enter our 4th summer of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) prevention efforts, it is good to reflect back on where we started and how this program has evolved. In 2014 the MN State Legislature began distributing funding to counties based upon a formula that

includes the number of public accesses in a county and the number of parking spaces at those accesses. Aitkin County ranks in the top 10 counties in the State for public accesses to lakes and rivers. Aitkin County receives about \$275,000 annually to be used to stop or slow the spread of AIS.

In September 2014 Aitkin County received about \$125,000 to begin an Aquatic Invasive Species prevention program in Aitkin County. That

initial funding was used to purchase 3 decontamination units on trailers that are placed at various public landings. In addition, we purchased equipment for AIS Inspectors to use such as safety vests, coolers, shirts, hats, etc.

In 2015 we started to implement our AIS Plan which includes education, inspections, enforcement, rapid response funds for new AIS discoveries, maintenance of AIS equipment, and administration/coordination. In 2016 we increased inspection hours to about 420 hours per access and increased our covered accesses to 16 full coverage and 4 to 6 partial coverage. We operated 3 hot water decontamination units. We completed about 10,000 inspections from mid-May thru early-September. All of the numbers reflect increases over 2015. No boats with zebra mussels were found in 2016. Some invasive plants were found. Education continues to be our highest priority. In 2016 we staffed the

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AIS - What can we do? (Continued)

Governor's Fishing Opener in the Big Sandy area with additional inspectors and 1 extra decontamination unit. In 2016 the Aitkin County Sheriff's office greatly increased their involvement with education of boaters and roadside inspections. DNR Conservation Officer support remains very strong.

In 2017 we added 2 additional lakes and hired 26 inspectors for the summer. The majority of the approximately \$275,000 funding for Aitkin County per year is spent on inspections.

Our goal for 2018 is 30 inspectors. We will have inspectors at the major accesses in the county; we will have the decontamination units operating; and, we will continue to provide education about AIS to as many lake users as possible.

We recently applied to fund an innovative project to provide clean water for fishermen to change their bait water when they are leaving the waterbody. This funding is being provided through the MN Initiative Foundation. It is unlawful to transport water from Minnesota lakes and rivers or to release bait into the water. A project regarding this issue will begin in May, 2018. Bait shops and resorts in Aitkin County will give one gallon of fresh water to those who buy bait. This project specifically focuses on slowing the spread of AIS such as spiny waterflea, zebra mussels, invasive plants, and starry stonewort. To encourage boaters to return the bag after use, \$.50 cash will be paid for the bag or \$1.00 off any artificial bait in the store. The plastic bag features information to educate users on methods to slow the spread of AIS. This project is designed to promote sustainable practices by recycling the bag as well as preserving the consumer's bait. More importantly, the goal of this project is to educate boaters about AIS and to prevent their spread throughout Aitkin County and Minnesota.

Each year we start boat inspections on the Friday before the fishing opener and we inspect through Labor Day. In July, we sample ten of our larger lakes for Zebra Mussel veligers (young). We continue to sample and analyze lakes for available calcium which may be a limiting factor for Zebra Mussel populations.

Our existing inspection schedule covers Friday afternoons, Saturday, Sunday, and the summer holidays. We try to match the available funds with the days and hours when the highest number of boaters can be reached and educated.

In late 2015 one of our Big Sandy Lake inspectors stopped the launch of a fishing boat that had hundreds of live zebra mussels attached. A Conservation Officer was called and the boat was sent to a decontamination station. The owner received a hefty fine for the transport of aquatic invasives. It is sobering to consider the damage that one boat could have caused to a large beautiful lake.

Do AIS prevention efforts matter? We are convinced that they do!

If you have questions or need more information please contact Steve Hughes @ (218) 927-6565 or hughes.aitkinswcd@gmail.com.



Our mission is to enhance, protect and preserve the beauty of Lone Lake

2018 Program Calendar

The Lone Lake Property Owners Association invites you to take part in all of the activities planned for the summer of 2018. 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 11-13th** **Opening of Fishing Inspections** DNR AIS Inspectors at the Public Access.
- May 12th** **Spring Road Cleanup** - Coffee and Rolls on Saturday, May 12th at 9:00 at the Swimming Beach.
- May 25-28th** **Memorial Weekend Inspections** DNR AIS Inspectors at the Public Access.
- May 28th** **2018 LLPOA Membership Drive begins with Memorial Day Weekend**
- May TBD** **DNR Boat Inspection Training and Certification.**
- June 16th** **Rivers & Lakes Fair** - Aitkin High School on Saturday, June 16th 9am to 2pm.
- July 4th** **Independence Weekend Inspections** DNR AIS Inspectors at the Public Access.
- July 7th** **Annual Boat Parade** - Meet on Saturday, July 7 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** - Wednes, July 4th with a starting time of 8:30 am at the Swimming Beach. No prior registration required. Teams of 1, 2 & 3 are welcome.
- July 21st** **Annual Picnic and Meeting** - Saturday, July 21st at 11:00 at the Preiner Storage Shed at 30353 Oak Avenue. Look for the LLPOA Sign!

Aug. 31-Sept 3rd Labor Day Weekend Boat Inspections at Public Access

- Sept. 8th** **Fall Road Cleanup** - Meet on Saturday, September 8th at 9AM for Coffee and Rolls at the Swimming Beach.



Visit our Website at www.lonelake.org or on at Lone Lake POA
Contact us at lonelakepoa@gmail.com