

# 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Crow Wing Lake Association

## Lake Association

"Neighbors helping neighbors  
for the greater good of the lakes"  
August 31, 2006  
Fall Newsletter

Greetings neighbors! Hope you have enjoyed your time at the lake this summer and will be able to join us for our big Lake Association Meeting September 16. (see back for details)

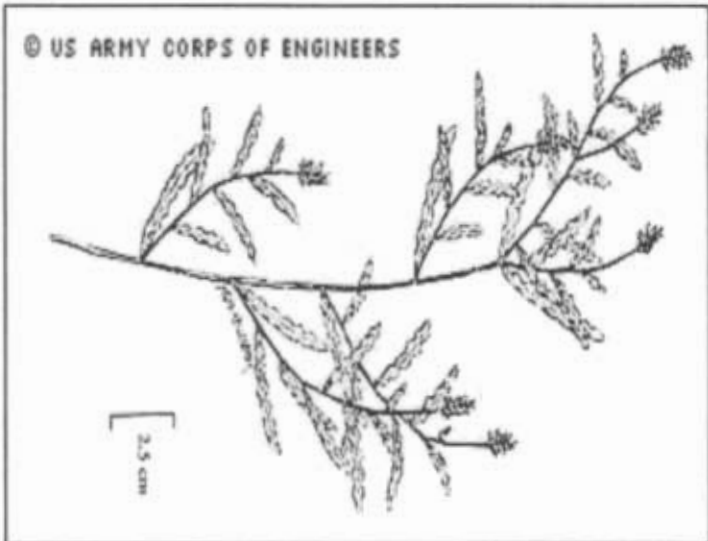
We've been **INVADED!** The big news this season is that our 11<sup>th</sup> Crow Wing Lake has been invaded by Curly-Leaf Pondweed. This insidious aquatic plant has a tendency to take over quickly and we will be discussing how to address the situation at September's meeting. Only two other lakes in Hubbard County have had this problem, one being Portage Lake, where homeowners have had to come up with \$15,000 year for the last four years to apply a chemical solution to eradicate this foreign species. We may need volunteers to spot and/or pull the weeds in the spring when they are most evident. Let's all band together to ensure this invasive plant goes "bye-bye" instead of "hey, look at how fast I can multiply". We don't want our property values to plummet and together, we can do anything! See you in two weeks...

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**Curly-Leaf Pondweed** (*Potamogeton crispus*)

Grows from the shore to depths of up to 15 feet

**Description:** Leaves are somewhat stiff and crinkled, approx. 1/2 inch wide and 2-3 inches long; leaves are arranged alternately around the stem, and become more dense toward the end of branches; produces winter buds.

**Hints to identify:** Has small "teeth" visible along edge of leaf, begins growing in EARLY spring before most other pondweeds (even starting under ice); dies back during midsummer. The flower stalks, when present, stick up above the water surface in June; appears reddish-brown in the water, but is actually green when pulled out of the water and examined closely. Easily confused with Claspingleaf pondweed, which has leaves with no "teeth" around their edges.

Provides some cover for fish; several waterfowl feed on the seeds. **Will not succeed in propagating itself if enough native aquatic plants are established.** Tendency to start invading at areas of disturbed lakeshore (i.e. boat ramps, newly developed areas, swim areas, etc.)

Source: Lake Weeder's Digest,  
[www.lakeweeds.eventwebstebuilder.com](http://www.lakeweeds.eventwebstebuilder.com)



The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is making more than \$300,000 available for grant proposals for restoring native shoreline vegetation across the state.

Grant recipients will be reimbursed for up to 75 percent of the total project costs. Applicants must be able to fund at least 25 percent of the total project costs from non-state sources. Matching funds may be cash, volunteer labor, and in-kind contributions of materials, equipment and services.

"This is an opportunity for homeowners, local communities and conservation organizations to help enhance native shoreline vegetation and fish habitat in their local lakes, streams and rivers," said John Hiebert, DNR shoreland habitat coordinator. Last year, 26 projects were funded for \$296,000.

Applications for grants, are available on the Minnesota DNR Web site at: [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us) or by calling the DNR at (651) 296-6157 or toll free 1-888-MINNDNR (646-6367). Applications are due Sept. 18.

Successful applicants will be notified in January. Funds will be made available to successful applicants after July 1, 2007.

The grants are funded from state lottery proceeds deposited in the heritage enhancement account. Grants, administered through the DNR Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, are designed with guidance from local DNR fisheries managers.

Here's a quick reminder for those of you who are new to the lake to help you ease into friendly neighbor relationships! **BOAT ETIQUETTE:** Please remember there is a **"NO WAKE" zone (under 5 mph) within 150 feet** of shore or other objects in the water (like swimmers, docks, rafts, and even OTHER boats, etc.) To ensure there's no ill will between those that want it quiet to fish, watch wildlife and contemplate, and those that want to "shake their groove thing" on skis, tubes, and boards, please be conscious of this and respect your fellow lake enthusiasts so all of us can enjoy our beautiful waters. May we suggest you and your family use the **middle** of the lake for watercraft recreation as far away from shore as possible and **NEVER** motor between a fisherperson and shore. It will be much appreciated by both your neighbors and the nesting shoreline critters. There's plenty of room, just be conscientious about giving the "other guy" and "other critter" some space. ☺ Enjoy your lake!



**BECOME A MEMBER!!!** Get your voice heard, learn some stuff about your lake and meet your neighbors! It's only **\$12** a year (what a deal!) All lake shore property owners (and any other interested parties) are invited to Lake Association meetings (currently there are two big meetings per year, 1<sup>st</sup> Sat. in May and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat. in September with additional meetings set as needed and announced on the [www.akeleyminnesota.com](http://www.akeleyminnesota.com) website and "Northwoods Press(??)" newspaper. (Send your dues to the Treasurer!)

**Mark your calendar for the next big meeting,**  
**September 16, 2006 (Saturday) at 10:00 a.m.**  
**at Crow Wing Crest Lodge.**



We are planning to have a DNR representative, and possibly a MN DOT representative at the meeting available as speakers. Topics at this meeting will focus on the Highway 64 culvert (bridge possibility) environmental concern. Is the 12 x 12 concrete culvert proposal still on the MN DOT agenda for 2008? What happened to the bridge idea? How would construction affect the fishing? The other lakes in our chain? My shoreline? Water clarity? Ice flows? What is this "accelerated aging" of the lake due to the "bottlenecked" culvert and how is this affecting weed growth, spawning habitat and shoreline erosion? How much noise can we expect from any new culvert or bridge? What are the safety concerns of the present culvert and how could a bridge or two-culvert system help?

Several members (namely the Bridge Committee) have been making contacts and doing lots of legwork on this issue the past 5 years (thank you so much!!), but we're finding many, many neighbors "in the dark" on this subject. Therefore, this fall's meeting will focus on education and voicing of concerns and questions. We hope to enlist new members and gain some fresh energy to help form a new "Bridge/Culvert Task Force" if for no other reason than to see that the MN DOT concrete culvert proposal stays on their rather "fluid" agenda (there's been a recent report that it is not a priority and no longer is on their 2008 project list.) Perhaps the Task Force would like to re-evaluate our lake needs? Come join us to help figure it out – we need your input, and we welcome your time and energy!!!

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