

10th & 11th Crow Wing Lake Association

"Neighbors helping neighbors for the greater good of the lakes"

April 18, 2008
Spring Newsletter



Hello neighbors! The unexpected blizzard last week with it's FEET of snow added a new dimension to the term "spring fever". It has melted quickly, but everything's a muddy mess and all the lakes up here are still frozen with ice. I swear I heard a loon a couple nights ago and we saw a pair of tundra swans flying overhead yesterday. We wondered where the HECK they are finding a place to land. HMMMMM everyone and everything in the northwoods is way past ready for spring!

CURLY LEAF PONDWEED (CLP) INVASION

Last season we scheduled 4 consecutive Saturdays in May for a volunteer project we called *Pondweed Round-up!* What did we learn from this? *sigh* Well, we learned that you can't schedule a date to identify aquatic plants, due to weather issues (wind, white caps, churning water, rain). A big THANK YOU needs to be acknowledged to those of you handful of neighbors who tried! (We also want to thank those half dozen or so volunteers from Portage Lake, other Lake Associations, COLA and the DNR for wading into that cold May water with rakes, gloves and a good attitude! You guys ROCK!)

Other things learned last season: Hand-pulling the weeds DID WORK. We, at Crow Wing Crest Lodge, applied and paid for a DNR permit and purchased \$150 of dried chemical specifically to treat CLP. We applied this stuff

three times over the course of the season throughout our contaminated beach and boat ramp areas and it, too, seemed to work very well. Neighbors around the lake who learned they had CLP around their docks took the time and effort to hand-pull what they could and this eliminated much of this invasive plant! That's the good news. The bad news: fresh batches of CLP were cropping up and seen growing as late as mid-September. HELPI

New plan of attack for this year? We're up for suggestions. Maybe a *Scout & Tag* effort? If every property owner around the lake could donate 1 hour of their time this summer in helping to control the CLP growth, this could really make a difference!

HOW?

- **Learn to identify the plants.** Stop by our resort and take a CLP identification sheet to keep in your boat. (Or go to www.peteport.com/portage) We will try to keep live specimens throughout the summer to help.
- **Go Scouting!** On a calm sunny evening, take an hour to do a slow cruise around the lake and look for CLP. **Tag it!** Once you've identified a patch of CLP, tag it by dropping a marker into the water. (We're thinking a simple empty gallon water jug with "CLP" written in permanent marker? Would you be willing to help make a few marker buoys?)

E-mail us more suggestions, or we'll see you at the meeting in two weeks! Take good care until then

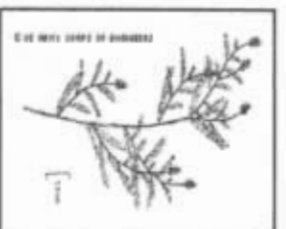
- Kim (& Big John) Bowen, Crow Wing Crest Lodge
31159 County Road 23, Akeley, MN 56433
(218) 652-3111, kimbowen@eot.com



WE NEED YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS! We'd like to keep you connected with the happenings on your lake. Eventually, we'd like to go "paperless" with this newsletter (to save postage, and save trees!) Please contact me at kimbowen@eot.com to get you on the e-mail list.

What is an invasive species?

Why is Curly Leaf Pondweed such a concern for our lakes?



An invasive species is any plant, animal or organism (i.e. microbe) non-native to an eco-system, whose introduction causes economic or environmental harm.

Because Curly Leaf Pondweed is the first aquatic plant to grow during spring (sometimes even under the ice!) it insidiously gets a head start before any native species. The plant spreads rapidly, crowding out native plants and creating mats and mats of vegetation. We do not want this invasive aquatic plant to spread to the other lakes in our chain, or surrounding communities. AND we'd like to contain/control it on 11th Crow Wing Lake so as not to inhibit swimming, recreational boating and fishing activities. * If we cannot find enough volunteers to hand-pull, rake and/or act as "scouts" to detect areas of growth throughout this season, our lake could end up like poor Portage Lake. * A future control alternative will be professional chemical treatment. This could cost every property owner around the lake lots of dollars and a possible decrease in property value. Let's protect our lakes. We need your HELPI

*Wanna see the damage it can do to a lake? A lake here in Hubbard County (only 3 lakes in Hubbard Co. have CLP) had mats of curly leaf pondweed so thick, you could almost walk across the lake on them! View photos at the Portage Lake Association website and to learn the cost of dealing with this issue after it got out of hand: www.peteport.com/portage



Current minutes from the last Lake Association Meetings are always posted on the local community bulletin board website:

www.akelevyminnesota.com

Fish Survey Report



Doug Kingsley, Park Rapids Area Fisheries Manager, gave a FANTASTIC presentation at last fall's Lake Association meeting. Thank you, Doug! The DNR makes attempts to survey the Crow Wing chain of lakes every 4 years.

Detailed graphs and info can be found by going to www.dnr.state.mn.us and clicking on "lake finder". Spell out Eleventh Crow Wing Lake or any other lake you are curious about, to see results (including statistics on the 11th's successful walleye stocking program, the generally low pan fish populations, but surprising figures for larger sized northern pike.)

Did You Know? 11th Crow Wing Lake is deeper per littoral foot, on average, than any other lake in Hubbard County? (Wow! That includes approximately 90 lakes!)

Large Mouth Bass: There has been discussion at the last several Lake Association meetings about the possibility of putting a DNR restriction limit, or a "catch & release" program on bass in an effort to increase the size of caught fish. After a telephone conversation with the Area Fisheries Manager last Monday, April 14, the DNR has decided to steer their bass conservation efforts to other lakes in the county (i.e. Belle Taine) for the immediate future. This last fish survey (summer 2006) was the first time they utilized electrofishing as a survey technique on 11th Crow Wing Lake, so now that they have a starter baseline point, it will be interesting to note the bass numbers/size during the next survey (around 2010). The survey showed only moderate bass populations compared to other lakes of its class, although this has not been a change since the last survey done in 2002. (It was mentioned at the presentation that bass are a difficult species to survey.)

How do you find the fishing on 11th & 10th Crow Wing Lakes? We welcome your own personal observations at upcoming meetings. Your opinions matter, and will be passed along to the DNR to help them maintain our valuable natural resource: our lakes!

10th & 11th Crow Wing Lake Association Officers:

PRESIDENT, Rich Willhaus
(218) 652-2539
E-mail - rdwillhaus@arvig.net

Vice-PRESIDENT, Gary Hendricks
(218) 652-2521 ghend@eot.com

SECRETARY, Susan Walters
(218) 652-4227
E-mail - nse@arvig.net

TREASURER, Lisa Hanson (send your dues here!)
29798 Hackberry Dr. (218) 652-3768
Akeley, MN 56433 lihanson@localnet.com

Your MN state legislators:
Senator Mary Olson
651-296-4913
sen.mary.olson@senate.mn

Representative Larry Howes
651-296-2451
rep.larry.howes@house.mn



Not a member? BECOME ONE, it's easy!

Mail **\$12** (annual dues -what a deal!) to Treasurer Lisa Hanson and you can VOTE at the next meeting. Plus you will know that your dues are helping to pay for this newsletter mailing, water clarity tests of your lake, and future needs of the lake (i.e. Curly Leaf Pondweed eradication). Thanks for supporting the health of your lake!



Spring Lake Association Meeting

May 3, 2008 (Saturday)

10:30 a.m.

Senior Center

(downtown Akeley, next to Blue Ox Market – this is directly following the pancake breakfast 7 – 10 a.m. – feel free to partake!)

MEETING AGENDA

- Approval of minutes from last meeting
- Treasurer's Report
- President's Announcements (water quality, legislator connections, lake plans, etc.)
- Curly Leaf Pondweed Open Forum and creation of a plan of attack

Fall Meeting tentatively scheduled for Saturday, September 20 at 10:30 a.m. at Senior Center. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

(If we have your e-mail address, we will zip you a reminder notice prior to the meeting.)