

FROM: Kim Bowen, 10th & 11th Crow Wing Lakes Association



April 23, 2012

Hello neighbors and happy early spring! What a strange winter, huh? Ice going out on the lake on March 27th is unheard of! (Average date of ice-out is around April 20, so it's almost a full month early.) And without the snows and spring rains the water table has been very low and dry (in fact, this is the first year in over two decades that the DNR decided to forego doing the northern pike spawning project at our resort. We were all afraid the pond would be dry before we could empty the fry into the lake.) (If you are curious about this annual project, you can go to our Crow Wing Crest Lodge facebook page, click on 'photos' then open up the 'Northern Pike Spawning' with several photos and descriptions of what the DNR guys are doing in each one - it's an itty-bitty-mini-documentary created during last year's project. ☺)

Speaking of Facebook, if you're a social networker, our Lake Association has it's own page thanks to member Carl Madison. Ask to join "10th and 11th Crow Wing Lake Association" and get posts of any discussion going on - this has been underutilized so far, but I think it could be a great tool to chat about any incidents that crop up on the lake, any fun things happening on the lake, sharing photos of wacky wildlife, stating any opinions about new state laws or guidelines and getting real-time answers to questions you might have about lake safety, invasive species, boating regulations, shoreline concerns, bridge/culvert activity, etc. etc. etc.



Website: member Scott Solberg has been graciously keeping up the 10th & 11th Crow Wing lakes assoc. website: <http://crowwing11.org> that another member (thanks again John Seals!) created for us. Click here to help identify Curly Leaf Pondweed, see past meeting minutes, view the lakes Management Plan, etc.

Loon Nests: Three new loon nests were placed on 11th Crow Wing Lake last year (thanks again for creating really cool new ones, Phil B.!) although none of them were used that anyone noticed. Darnit! ☹ (By the way, I had a couple of e-mails questioning the identities of those platforms across the bay from us last year - yep, it was a loon nest - they are quite large platforms at maybe 5' across with a 'cage' on the top to deter bald eagles predation.) I think the guys did a good job placing them (thanks Amos H., Rich W. and Phil B.!) and consensus at last fall meeting thought that maybe they were put out too late in season and that perhaps we needed to try adding some dried grasses placed inside to make them look more inhabitable by our loon population? We're hopeful for this season!

Fish Survey: I chatted with Doug Kingsley, DNR Fisheries Manager for our area, the other day and he says the latest results from the 2011 Fish Survey will be up and published on their website by mid-summer, so you can view stats there. He doesn't remember any significant changes in fish populations per say, but the results will be here: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us> (click on "LakeFinder" then when asked to search a lake, spell out "Eleventh Crow Wing" or "Tenth Crow Wing"). There is a full record of walleye stocking pounds/sizes listed from 2003 - 2011 (the two figures each year are numbers of walleye stocked on both basins of 11th Crow Wing - the higher numbers on top are for the bigger SW basin of the lake.)



Spring Meeting

Saturday May 19

ARCC (old Akeley school - meeting room behind stage)

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon,

and YES, we will be ending on time again,
anyone can stay afterwards to connect and chat



(This date also coincides with Akeley city-wide rummage sale, so you can peruse the ARCC, then wander around town looking for junk?/treasures. Better plan to be up this particular weekend and take advantage! We have moved the normal meeting date forward into season a couple weeks to see if we can get decent attendance. Thanks for your time and showing up to help us plan actions items for the lakes by coming to this quick 2-hour meeting)

Fisheries Committee: Based on collected feedback from all you members who filled out the fishing questionnaire a couple years ago, members Barbara Riggs and John Bowen found it was surprising how rarely many of us lake property owners actually fish. ??? As they needed a fisheries project to focus on, they decided to find out if they could improve large mouth bass populations in 11th Crow Wing Lake with extra stocking of the species. Alas, after numerous phone calls and research, they found getting bass fry/fingerlings is almost impossible, or at the very least, impractical. Hence, that particular angle (no pun intended) is a 'no go'. They now need a new "FISHERIES" project to work on (whether it be a shoreline restoration, erosion controls, other fish stocking ideas, etc.) Suggestions are welcome to help focus on a new goal! (Note: we voted at last year's Spring Meeting that of the \$3,000 matching grant funds available to us, as reward for completing Lake Management Plan, we would split these possible grant monies between a Fisheries effort and a Highway 64 project.)

AIS - Aquatic Invasive Species:

- New law in MN: you are required to put an **AIS decal** on any watercraft you own now. Just as you are required to have a lifejacket per person in your watercraft and may get fined if you don't, the new law requires you to have this sticker attached somewhere on your boat or water toy (www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquatic_ga.html) go here to get your questions answered - don't ask me! I'm just learning too). They are free, you can pick one up as you get your annual fishing license, or at your local DNR or motor vehicle license center. I will bring about 12 extras to the upcoming Lake Association meeting on May 19th.
- **Lake Service Providers (LSP)** (these are folks you'd hire to put your docks in for you, or boats, etc.) You can put your own in without a license of course, but if you hire anyone to do it for you, you need to make sure they have a LSP permit. This is also a newer law you need to be aware of. REQUEST: it would be great to get a volunteer (you?) to compile a list of local providers with their phone numbers/e-mail addresses that we can just shoot out to any member who requests it (plus we can post on our website, too.) The list on the DNR website (<http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/rlp/permits/lsp/lsp-permits.pdf>) is bulky with *everyone* listed (but no phone numbers or contact info) who has a permit in the state including companies like sprinkler system businesses and resorters (like us; my husband and brother just had the training and now have a permit, but we don't hire out). It would be GREAT to get someone to compile a list of maybe 8-10 permitted local guys/businesses with their contact info. This would be rather handy, don't you think? This whole subject has been manifested due directly to aquatic invasive species being spread around the state by boats, lifts and docks. See enclosed copies of recent newspaper articles of actual documented cases of zebra mussels found on boats/lifts contaminating nearby lakes last year.
- **Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) update on 11th Crow Wing Lake** During the last 3 years, we've averaged using 3 buckets of chemical (approx. \$600) and several DNR chemical permits (\$35 each), funding of which is coming out of the AIS Fund in our Lake Association (big, hearty THANK YOU's to each and every one of you who continue to add a little more \$ to your Lake Association dues to pay for this! To those of us who are out doing the actual work, it feels incredibly supportive to have others in the association contribute to this effort and show your concern.) We estimate that between the dozen or so members actually scouting, hand pulling/raking up the CLP, (along with applying chemicals in the spring) throughout season, we average about 45 "hu-"man hours year.



Please don't ask me for chemical if you do NOT have CLP in front of your property. If you DO have it, WE NEED YOU TO FILL OUT THE \$35 DNR chemical permit (for CLP applications, the association will reimburse you for this permit as part of the program. We really need to keep these up every year as it's also a way that the Bemidji DNR office keeps track of our project.) I've had a half dozen requests this last year from members asking if they could come get or buy some of this chemical stock to use for their nuisance lake weeds. It's a pain in the patootie to get the buckets (thanks Scott for getting us two more buckets this spring,

we have 1 bucket leftover from last year, so between the 3 we should have enough for CLP project this season). I think if Lake Association would like to create a new stockpile of chemical for anyone who wished to buy some from, we could maybe talk about this at spring meeting and 'designate' a bucket just for that? I think it should get funded from general funds instead of AIS Fund and we'd need to make sure of limits. (Whoever wants to be responsible for the bucket will need to see proof that you have gotten your DNR chemical permit, too - it's the law at the moment. You can hand pull/rake underwater plants less than 2500 sq. ft, without a permit, but you DO need a permit to remove any cattails, bulrushes, wild rice - emergent vegetation, and you DO need a permit if you use an auto weed roller or apply any chemical whatsoever.) In the meantime, just assume this Hydrothol 191 is for CLP only, thanks.

Personally, I'd like to seek a small matching grant (perhaps 5 years? and of approx. \$500-600) to continue this control effort to contain the CLP to the upper NE basin. After discussing this with Mark Sommer at Hubbard Co. Soil & Water Conservation, he suggested asking our local township for a grant (precedent has been set in other area townships like Lake Emma, Henrietta and Mantrap, which have donated thousands of dollars to AIS prevention and conservation initiatives in the last couple of years.) Anyone willing to make a few phone calls, perhaps write a letter when needed and maybe attend a township meeting (they meet downtown Akeley, 1st Thurs of month at 7 p.m.)? He also suggested asking the NW MN Foundation (who helped us get training for Lake Management).

Review on our association's AIS funding: We asked for and received a \$300 donation from 8th & 9th Crow Wing Lakes Association in 2010 (I wrote the new President last year requesting same but did not hear anything back from them), last year we received \$1,600 for completing the Lake Management Plan (which you can view on association website - yes! all freakin' 77 pages, what a pain THAT was, lemme tell ya) of which \$1,000 was voted to be put into the AIS fund. So this will get us through another year or so, but I envision that this effort will be a continuing one for many years to come and we may wish to do other types of AIS prevention or control.

Beaver Issue: We had an outbreak of beaver population last year on the upper NE basin of 11th. Not only are they a nuisance (they cut down 5 of the only 7 mature deciduous trees along our main shoreline, for example, and you should hear the mutterings of the neighbors on the south side of the basin), but they have been spreading Curly Leaf Pondweed. Arghhh! At last fall meeting, a number of us met at my place (you were invited if I have your e-mail address on the group Lake Association list) and took a pontoon cruise around the basin to look at CLP patches, view the culvert and loon nests and also to check out the beaver lodge (s). Right at the entrance to the active lodge with countless freshly cut saplings was a big new patch of CLP. Not good. One of our neighbors residing near the lodge contacted a couple of local beaver trappers who, for free, trapped several of the critters over winter. The trappers seem to have lost interest this spring now that the pelts are not in the best shape, but according to our neighbor, there are still a couple of beavers hanging around. I talked to Bobby (Em's Café) and he would trap/shoot the remaining nuisance creatures for \$20 critter (he'd bring the tails to us.) Please help us make a decision about taking this action item or not at the upcoming meeting (also, we'll be discussing Solie Bay beaver population elimination.)



Solie Bay Habitat Restoration Project: Solie Bay on the SW basin of 11th used to have high numbers of pan fish beds, great natural waterfowl (including loon) nesting areas amongst the cattails and grasses and few worries about eroding shoreline for property owners, according to one longtime Solie Bay neighbor, Jim Todd. His attendance at our Lake Association's visioning session two summers ago brought to light the damage the bay has sustained due to boat wakes, purposeful removal of aquatic vegetation by property owners, and high beaver populations. Last year, the Lake Association was able to 'sweet-talk' the Sheriff's Department into donating and maintaining two floating "No Wake" buoys at the mouth of the bay. Apparently that has really made a difference in reducing the boat wakes (and noise - disturbance to wildlife). Yeahhh! We'll be discussing an action item regarding the beaver population at upcoming Spring Meeting, and hopefully we can help spread the word about the importance of shoreline and native lake vegetation (see enclosed article on Shoreline Alterations).



Akeley Campgrounds Erosion Control Project: Nothing is going on with this project at the moment, although there are lots of potential funding and partnership possibilities abounding. What we need is one committed volunteer to head this up and organize. Could this be you?

Boating/Recreation Safety: Last year we voted to approve funding to print out a stack of "Water Safety Guidelines" and "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers" to gift to the Akeley Campgrounds for the manager to hand out to every camping group. (These same handouts were also issued to you in last year's Spring Newsletter - thanks for posting them in your lake cabins for your guests and visitors to be reminded, too - if you need another copy, e-mail or call me.) Jan Carlson and I also went to a city council meeting and got approval to post these same handouts in all 10 bathrooms at the campgrounds. Reports from neighbors residing on the SW lower basin of 11th at last Fall Meeting claimed that it was a very safe summer season, with no observations of reckless or dangerous watercraft incidents. (We concluded it was either a very lucky season, or that perhaps these postings helped a little.)

Highway 64 Issues: A temporary measure was implemented last summer to keep down dust levels/lake contamination from ATV traffic along Highway 64 crossing 11th Crow Wing Lake. At last Spring Meeting, Pam Raden agreed to work with Katie Magozzi in drafting a letter to MN DOT in regards to moving the 'illegal' ATV trail from this route, to County 25 to go around the lake. Rumble strip noise pollution, biking safety, ATV noise/safety issues, plus replacement of culvert are other long-running issues the Lake Association has continued to discuss. Talk of a community visioning session inviting a MN DOT rep, a couple of legislators, DNR and environmental engineers along with shoreline residents (particularly those with culvert replacement concerns) had been bandied about last year. Is it time to organize this yet? (We've established several years of AIS Control program in place, which may be helpful in aiding some of these aspects.) If Highway 64 Committee needs to meet or discuss possible action items prior to any vote at upcoming Spring Meeting, this can be a reminder to do so.



Election of Officers & Board: We just want to validate positions, ask those who would like the chance to become an officer or board member the opportunity to do so. (Really! If you have an interest in being President, for example, I'd be happy to defer to you! Or I'd be delighted to have someone take over the newsletters, or we could maybe use a back-up secretary to take minutes, as you may have noticed we don't have minutes from last Fall Meeting. Spring Meeting 2011 minutes are posted on the www.crowwing11.org website, thanks Jan!) We are hopeful that most of us will stay on if there are no volunteers. ☺



E-mail LIST: If you don't receive occasional e-mails from Lake Association, you are missing out (average about 12 a year). We do one 'snail' mailing a year (this one). The fall newsletter, reminders about fall meeting, forwards from COLA, incidental news about issues going on at the lakes, etc. is done via e-mail the rest of the year. If you'd like to get on the list, e-mail me at kimbowen@eot.com or write your e-mail address (legibly!) on your dues slip with your check in the enclosed envelope.

In the meantime -- hope to keep connected with you, thank you for caring about the lakes, and looking forward to seeing you around the lakes this summer or at the meeting!

Kim Bowen
President, 10th & 11th Crow Wing Lakes Association
218 652 3111
kimbowen@eot.com (Crow Wing Crest Lodge, www.crowwing.com)

P.S. Neighbor Carl Madison on the upper NE basin of 11th has this announcement: "I still have an aluminum pontoon paddle boat that floated into my shore, over a year ago. I did let the Sheriff's Dept know that we have it (and Kim sent out an e-mail announcement last fall), so if anybody is looking for it, it's still here. If nobody claims it I will rework it and use it." E-mail: imagery@iuidesigns.com