

## Challenges and Opportunities!

Dave Fischer, WAPOA President

The increased presence of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) continues to dominate the news from the DNR.

The latest lake to be confirmed with Zebra Mussels is our large neighbor to the north, Lake Winnibigoshish.



The good news is that there were no reports of Zebra Mussels during the fall removal of docks

and lifts on the Whitefish Chain.

Also, PLM of Pequot Lakes, with whom we contract for vegetation surveys at 30+ sites on the Whitefish Chain and neighboring lakes, reported no Eurasian Watermilfoil in their end-of-the-season survey.

We are currently participating with several statewide groups that are promoting additional State legislation and funding to prevent and control the spread of AIS.

In addition, we have again applied for 2013 lake access inspector grants directly from the DNR, as well as through Crow Wing County.

We are also partnering with the Friends of Lower Hay and the Clamshell-Bertha Lake

Association to maximize the number of inspectors at our numerous accesses.

Please consider being a volunteer monitor to augment the DNR and County Access inspectors. See page 5.

Donations to the new Land & Waters Preservation Trust Endowment have given the Endowment a strong start. See the article on next page.

On our WAPOA website\* you can check the current weather conditions on Lower Hay Lake and you can now follow a link to a Minnesota DNR web-cam pointed at an eagle nest near the Twin Cities.

Because the eggs were laid in early January, the DNR expects chicks could be hatched momentarily. Check it out!

Also, if you have not yet renewed your membership for 2013, you can do so by clicking "Join WAPOA" on the website\*.

Finally, take a minute and put two dates on your calendar: Saturday morning, June 8 for the WAPOA complimentary breakfast and Annual Meeting, and Saturday, July 6 for Grandpa's Run for the Walleye.

WAPOA Website: \* <http://www.wapoa.org>

# LAND & WATERS, A PRESERVATION TRUST

announced by Presidents of WAPOA and PRWA

WAPOA President Dave Fischer and Ron Meyer, President Pine River Watershed Alliance, recently announced the formation of a trust to provide long-term protection to lakes in the watershed.

A dependable long-term source of funding is essential to assuring the ability of both organizations to protect and improve the 14,000 acres of water in the Whitefish Chain, and to assure protection of water quality in the 500,000 acres of the Pine River watershed which surrounds the Whitefish Chain.

**Action by us now will be a powerful way to protect the lakes for those coming after us.**

Dollars contributed this year will be doubled by a grant from the Initiative Foundation.

What a deal! But this offer is available to us only during 2013.

The Initiative Foundation presented this unique opportunity to the two associations: that the Initiative Foundation would match each dollar contributed to the new Preservation Trust with a dollar from the Initiative Foundation, up to \$50,000.00. **With your assistance, the result will be a fund of \$100,000.00.**

The Initiative Foundation match will occur in three steps:

	When Donations Reach	Initiative Foundation Match
Step One	\$10,000	\$10,000
Step Two	\$25,000	\$15,000
Step Three	\$50,000	\$25,000

Due to the generosity of the members of WAPOA and PRWA responding to the initial solicitation in November 2012, the status of the Endowment as of January 24, 2013 is as follows:

Donations received	\$13,655
Special match by WAPOA for first \$5,000 donated by 12/31/2012	<u>\$ 5,000</u>
Subtotal of donations received	\$18,655
Plus Initiative Foundation Step One match	<u>\$10,000</u>
Total Current Value of Land & Waters Endowment	<u><b>\$28,655</b></u>

All donations to the Endowment qualify as a Section 501(c)(3) tax deduction. Additional information can be obtained. [CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND DONATION FORM](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS



Everyone is invited to attend the WAPOA Board meetings held the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 2:30

Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> – WAPOA Annual Meeting at Ideal Town Hall



Saturday, July 6<sup>th</sup>- Run for the Walleye 5 K



Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup> - Antique/Classic Boat Show at Moonlite Bay



Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup> - Harvest Dinner at Nisswa Community Center

This is a great evening with folks from both farm and lake. Food is always the best from local farms, prepared by innovative chefs, and the program is always fascinating to both groups. Both groups are working for cleaner water in the watershed.

# Class for Volunteer Access Inspectors

We need you -- 2 hours a week!

Despite much publicity about invasive species, 20 % of boaters are arriving at our accesses with their boats in violation of DNR invasive species rules.

Inspecting watercraft at the access is still the most effective strategy to protect lakes against invasive species.

To increase the number of inspections, WAPOA has a program for volunteer access inspectors.

Don't we pay for inspectors? In 2013 WAPOA will spend over \$20,000 of your contributions for paid inspectors. But there are limits to our contributed dollars. That leaves a lot of hours that your access goes uninspected and unprotected.

## You can help the lake and boater:

Many boaters, after they take their boat out at the access, do not tip their motor down to a straight vertical position to drain the retained water. But they should.

That retained water can spread zebra mussels to the next lake and can also plug up the motor's cooling system.

Your tip may spare the boater an expensive repair.

There are a lot of other tips you can give boaters. All while protecting your lake.

WAPOA has the DNR scheduled to conduct training sessions on the dates listed in the adjacent box.

## Watercraft Inspection Classes

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Wednesday May 8, 2013

---or---

Wednesday June 12, 2013  
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Ideal Town Hall

Cty #16 and Butternut Pt. RD

9 am - 12 noon

Conducted by  
Keri Hull, MN DNR

***In 2012 the DNR said that 20% of the boats coming to accesses were in violation of the law.***

Advance Registration  
Appreciated

Keri Hull, MN DNR  
[keri.hull@state.mn.us](mailto:keri.hull@state.mn.us)

218-833-8737

or

Alan Sherburne, WAPOA  
[wapoa@me.com](mailto:wapoa@me.com)

# Memories at the Lake

Living at the lake is a wonderful life. It makes the most of our Minnesota summers.

Whether it be all summer long or only on weekends, there are so many special times, special places and special memories.

You can look back on old photos, movies or videos or just remember those wonderful times with friends and family.

Whether its learning to swim,  
helping the kids catch their first walleyes,  
catching the sunrise on a quiet morning,  
skipping stones across the waves,  
watching loons with their young,  
gazing up at a star-filled sky,  
staring into the magic of a campfire,  
putting in the dock,  
sailing down the lake on a moonlit night,  
smelling the scent of pine,  
or walking through the crunch of fall leaves with a grandchild,  
we all have special memories of the lake.



We'd like to hear your memories and then share some of them in future issues of the WAPOA Newsletter.

If you have a special memory, send us a short recollection that we might publish. Send it to *My Special Lake Memory*, c/o WAPOA Newsletter, PO Box 342, Crosslake, MN 56442.

# What you would see if you were up here, February 2013



Crow Wing County February 2013  
Lower Hay with fish house, pickup  
Bridge on Veteran's Trail  
Hay Creek  
Hay Creek, Upper Hay in background  
Invasive Species sign at access

