

THE CULLEN CURRENTS



Spring, 2017

CLA does not receive DNR grant funding for control of nuisance CLP in 2017

The Cullen Lakes Association received word on March 2 that it will not receive any DNR grant funding this year for the treatment of curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) in the three Cullen lakes. This will be the first year since 2009, the year CLA began chemical treatment of nuisance CLP, that the association has not received DNR grant funding. Board member Carol Lindahl received the following email from Wendy Crowell, DNR Ecological Resources Grants Coordinator.

“Unfortunately, we will not be able to fund your proposed project to control curly-leaf pondweed in the Cullen Lakes this year because all of the grant funds available for this program were allocated to grant applications that were received before yours. **Although you sent in your application materials on the first day that the grant program opened, we received 142 applications that day, and were only able to offer funding to the first 91 we received.** (bold print added)

“I am sorry we had such limited funds to grant out this year. Thank you for all the work you and the Cullen Lakes Association have done to help control and prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.”

DNR funding available for aquatic invasive species (AIS) control was slashed by more than 2/3 last year and remains at that lower level, and with the increasing number of lake associations seeking AIS control grant money there is less to go around.

In 2009 through 2011, Lower Cullen Lake was a pilot project for CLP control and received generous funding from the DNR ranging from \$15,000 to \$17,100. CLA itself paid for the control in Middle and Upper Cullen. The pilot project ended after 2011 and from 2012 through 2016 CLA received DNR grant funding for all three Cullen Lakes that ranged from a high of \$10,400 in 2014 to \$7,600 in 2016.

CLA members come through again!

The response of Cullen Lakes Association members to the call for donations towards the treatment of curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) this year was even better than last year's generous giving. One hundred eighty (180) people sent a CLP donation along with their \$25 dues. That's 76% of CLA's members! Donations ranged from \$5 to \$1,000, with almost half the donations at or above the \$200 suggested in the membership mailing.

As of May 9, CLA members had donated \$30,315 towards this year's treatment of CLP. These donations will cover about three-fourths of the expected total cost of this spring's treatment, and while this means we will still have to deplete our reserves by \$10,000, that is better than expected after learning we didn't receive any DNR grant money this year.

2017 CLA Annual Meeting

The 35th Annual Meeting of the Cullen Lakes Association will be held **Saturday, August 12** at Lutheran Church of the Cross in Nisswa.

Coffee and rolls will be available and exhibits will be ready for viewing starting at 8:30.

The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will feature Pam Perry, CLA member and retired head of the Brainerd DNR Nongame Wildlife Program, as speaker.

The regular business meeting will follow Perry's presentation. The meeting will be over by 11:00, leaving you the rest of the day to enjoy lake activities and other recreation.

Protect yourself. Avoid tick-borne illness.

from the MN DNR web site

Deer ticks, also known as blacklegged ticks, are just one of thirteen known tick species in Minnesota. They are most common in the east and central areas of the state and are found in hardwood forests and wooded and brushy areas. Deer ticks are potential carriers of **Lyme disease**, human babesiosis and babesiosis.



Primarily risks are from mid-May through mid-July when the smaller nymph stage of the deer tick is feeding. Risk is present, but lower, in early spring and again in the fall (late September-October) when the adult stage of the deer tick is active.

Deer tick bites

Prevention

Check and re-check for ticks when you are in tick-infested areas.

- *When in deer tick habitat, walk in the center of the trail to avoid picking up ticks from grass and brush.
- *Wear light colored clothing so ticks will be more visible.
- *Create a barrier to ticks by tucking pants into socks or boots and tuck long sleeved shirt into pants.
- *Use a repellent containing DEET or permethrin, and carefully follow the directions on the container.
- *After being outdoors in tick habitat, get out of your clothes immediately, do a complete body check, shower and vigorously towel dry. Wash your clothes immediately so as to not spread any ticks around your living area.
- *Pets should also be checked for ticks.

Tick removal

The risk of getting a tick-borne disease is small if the tick is removed soon after it becomes attached. Deer ticks must remain attached one to two days to transmit Lyme disease, and about one day for the other diseases.

- *Take precautions when in tick habitat, but don't panic if you find a deer tick on you. Not all ticks are infected, and prompt tick removal can prevent illness
- *Use tweezers to grasp the tick close to its mouth.
- *Gently and S-L-O-W-L-Y pull the tick straight outward.
- *To avoid contact with the bacteria, if present, do not squeeze the ticks' body.
- *Wash the area and apply an antiseptic to the bite.
- *Watch for early signs and symptoms of Lyme disease.

Lyme disease signs, symptoms and treatment

Please visit the Minnesota Department of Health's web site, www.health.state.mn.us, for more information on this topic.

Zebra mussel biology

excerpted from a Sea Grant article

Zebra mussels are small freshwater mussels. Young settled juveniles feel like sandpaper on smooth surfaces. Adults range from 1/2 up to nearly 2 inches long with highly variable dark and light stripes or are solid brown or yellow. The mussel's reproductive cycle is one key to its rapid spread and high abundance. Egg production starts when water temperature warms to about 54 degrees F. A fully mature female mussel may produce several hundred thousand eggs per season.

Eggs are fertilized outside the mussel's body and within a few days develop into free-swimming larvae called veligers. Nearly invisible to the unaided eye, veligers remain suspended in the water for three to four weeks, drifting with the currents. If they don't settle onto firm objects, they die, and in fact, most do. Those that find a hard surface quickly attach themselves and transform into the typical, D-shape, double-shelled mussel. Generally, zebra mussels grow roughly a little over 2/5th of an inch per month. Within a year, a zebra mussel can grow up to an inch and become sexually mature. Some can grow as large as 1.5 inches or more.

Zebra mussels produce a tuft of fibers known as a byssus, or byssal threads, from a gland in their foot. The byssus protrudes between the two halves of the shell. These threads attach to hard surfaces with a powerful glue that anchors the mussels in place. Small juveniles, referred to as translocators, can actually break away from their attachments and generate new, buoyant threads that allow them to drift short distances with currents.



Any hard surfaces can be colonized by zebra mussels — rock, metal, wood, vinyl, glass, rubber, fiberglass, paper, plants, and other mussels. Zebra mussels can establish regardless of depth or winter temperatures. Colonies grow rapidly wherever oxygen and particulate food is available and water currents are not too swift — generally less than six feet per second. Colonies are rare in wave-washed and ice-scoured zones, except for the sheltered undersides of rocks, nooks and crevices.

Zebra mussels also colonize soft bottoms. Hard objects, such as pieces of native mussel shells and even dead zebra mussel shells, act as a base for settling veligers allowing them to gain footholds even on sandy or muddy bottoms. As a few mussels begin to grow, they form barnacle-like colonies and in this way can form extensive mats of zebra mussel carpets on lake and river bottoms.



Highway 371 update

from MnDOT web site
(www.mndot.gov/d3/hwy371)

Hwy. 371 will be open at all times.

April 7-Mid-May:

- *Crews will close and reconstruct southbound Hwy. 371 and the west Nisswa Ave. connection.
- *Both directions of Hwy. 371 will be reduced to a single lane of traffic on the northbound side of the roadway in Nisswa.
- *Right turns only from Nisswa Ave to Hwy. 371.
- *Crews to construct new northbound Hwy. 371 in Jenkins, includes CR 16.

April 10-May 12:

- *Work begins on northbound Hwy. 371 and CR 16 connection in Jenkins.
- *Access to CR 16 closed at Hwy. 371/Myers Rd.
- *Signal non-operational at Hwy. 371/CR 16/Myers Rd.
- *Myers Rd. to use a stop sign to access Hwy. 371.
- *Access to CR 145 closed at CR 16.

April-May:

Crews may be working in various locations along Hwy. 371 between CR 18 in Nisswa and Rosewood St. in Jenkins—surveying, relocating utilities, establishing turf, installing signs or safety barrier, hauling materials, etc. Please be watchful and drive with care.

Nisswa

- *Install the east side Cullen Brook culvert and pave roadway (northbound lanes).
- *Construct new Edna Lake Rd. connection to CR 29.
- *Construct southbound lanes and complete Nisswa Ave. connections

Road signs installed along future Highway 371 on April 12.

Pequot Lakes

- *Construct new CR 168 access connections to complete the new reduced conflict intersection at Hwy. 371/CR 168/CR 107.
- *Install fencing along new alignment

Jenkins

- *Construct Hwy. 371 northbound lanes and road connections, includes the CR 16/Myers Rd./Hwy. 371 intersection.

Schedule goals:

Open Hwy. 371 to four lanes between CR 16 in Jenkins and CR 168/107 in Pequot Lakes in late-May/early-June. Hwy. 371 to remain open to two lanes of traffic (on new northbound) between CR 168/107 in Pequot Lakes and CR 18 in Nisswa, as crews construct southbound and access road connections from June to late summer.

Open Hwy. 371 to four lanes between CR 168/107 in Pequot Lakes to CR 18 in Nisswa in late summer. Entire project to be complete by fall, 2017.

Schedules are tentative and subject to change.

Paul Bunyan Trail

Trail is open. Please stay on trail to ensure newly planted native seedlings grow along the trail.

Update as of May 10

CR 16 access at Hwy. 371 in Jenkins reopens May 12 as a gravel road surface. A stop sign will be used to access Hwy. 371. Pay attention and expect changes when navigating through the area. Motorists may encounter flaggers controlling traffic when paving operations are completed in the upcoming weeks. The new traffic signal system at Hwy. 371/Myers Rd./CR 16 will be operational when the new four-lane opens in Jenkins in late May/early June. (*editor's note: CR 16 is used my many to access Whitefish Golf Course.*)

July 4th Boat Parades

As in years past, each Cullen Lake will have a Fourth of July boat parade informally organized by its lakeshore property owners.

Participants should gather at the east end of their lake shortly before 2:00 p.m. and plan on making one entire trip around the lake.

Please send photos from your parade to the newsletter editor to be included in the summer newsletter.

Currents on the Cullens

Deaths

Denny Schupp, Upper Cullen (U17 & 22)
John Lawrow, Middle Cullen (M104)
Marilyn Farrell, Middle Cullen (M21)

Water Ways

Protecting and enhancing watersheds in Minnesota

In your watershed: habitat = fish = fishing fun

People who like fishing should also like natural shores and vegetated shallow areas in lakes and rivers. Why? Because good fish habitat means more fish. Most fish, at some stages in their lives, are dependent on shoreline and shallow water habitat.

Rock and gravel bottoms in lakes and rivers are spawning areas for many game fish, like walleye. They also are home to suckers, darters and minnows that are food for larger fish. In addition, rocky bottoms provide hiding places and forage areas for other species like smallmouth bass and crayfish.

Mucky lake and river bottoms are important, too. They are home to insects and other invertebrates that are food for fish and wildlife.

Natural shoreline areas protect important fish habitat. Sand trucked in for swimming beaches smothers the underwater gravel and silt that fish use for spawning. And removing aquatic vegetation to create swimming and boating areas eliminates fishing habitat for spawning, shelter and food.

Shoreline vegetation not only filters runoff and stabilizes banks, it also provides shaded hiding places for bass and panfish. Eroding shorelines are a problem, sending sediment into the water, where it smothers fish eggs and underwater insects that fish eat. Erosion can be limited by planting vegetative strips along the shoreline. The addition of native grasses, shrubs and trees further anchors the soil.

Keep shores and shallow areas natural, and have fun fishing. Everything we do on the land impacts our waters. To find out more about how to keep our shoreline areas and waters healthy and productive, go to the DNR web site at www.mndnr.gov.

Adopt-a-Highway program is on hold again this year

CLA's road pick up, part of MnDOT's Adopt-a-Highway program, will not take place this spring due to the ongoing Highway 371 expansion project. It is possible that the pick up this fall also will not be able to take place. All is dependent on when the construction is completed and the construction zone has been cleared. Watch for more news in the summer newsletter.

Need to burn tree debris?

There are two things to remember before you light that pile of branches and pine needles you picked up after winter storms damaged the trees:

*Check on-line (DNR web site) or at a local hardware store to see if there is a burning ban in place. The DNR usually issues a burning ban in the spring until vegetation has greened up.

*If there is no burning ban in place, get a burning permit from your local hardware store before starting your fire. There are a few rules you must follow.

Avoid being paid a surprise visit by a DNR enforcement officer and possibly getting a violation ticket.

Water wisely

by Jackie Froemming, former Extension educator

Water wisely — for plant health

*Water only when needed; have rain gauges around your site.

*Water at the base of the plants to avoid getting leaves wet; use soaker hoses or a drip irrigation.

*Avoid watering annuals, perennials and vegetables in the evening to avoid fungal diseases.

*Water deeply and less often to promote deeper roots that will require less watering.

*Mow your lawn no shorter than 2 inches to promote deeper roots that will require less watering.

*Add a 2-inch layer of organic mulch to flower beds to conserve moisture in soil.

*Amend soil with organic matter (i.e. compost) to increase water-holding capacity of soil.

Water wisely — for environmental stewardship

*Collect and use rainwater whenever possible.

*Rain harvesting formula: 1 inch of rain over 1 square foot generates 0.6 gallons of water.

Example: One 2,000 sq. ft. structure generates 1,200 gallons of water during a 1-inch rain event.

*Water your lawn between 4-8 a.m. to reduce loss of water due to evaporation and wind.

*Install a weather-sensing controller or soil-moisture sensor as part of your automated sprinkling system to reduce over-watering.

*Use less water by reducing the size of your lawn.

*Reduce water run-off to reduce soil erosion,

*Reduce water run-off to reduce pollution of lakes, rivers and streams.

*Add native plants to your landscape.

*Add drought-tolerant plants to your landscape.



Preserve the beauty of the night with sensible shoreline lighting

excerpted from an article by Dave Liebl, UW Extension

Many of us can remember sitting on a dock on a crystal clear summer night, the water as flat as glass, the inky black surface mirroring the sky, the great white Milky Way, a falling star tracing a path across the heavens. Unfortunately, this precious part of our heritage, the outdoors with only the light of the moon and stars, is fading away. Dusk to dawn lights obscure our view of constellations, meteor showers, planets and the landscape lit by the moon. Yard lights and lights intended to illuminate a sidewalk or path all too often also shine brightly out across the lake or into neighboring yards.

Sensible lighting can minimize the three most serious problems along shorelands: glare, light trespass and sky glow. The first principle of good lighting is to illuminate only what we wish to see. When we see light from a fixture itself rather than what the fixture is meant to illuminate, we are observing **glare**. **Light trespass** is a light fixture on one property that illuminates an adjacent or nearby property. Much of our exterior lighting shines directly upward or reflects upward, causing the sky above our cities to **glow** and washing out our view of the dark night sky.

Sensible shoreland lighting does its intended job well, with minimum adverse impact on neighbors and the environment. The following are some suggestions for sensible shoreland lighting.

*Provide adequate light for the intended task, but don't over-light. Choose lights that meet your needs without lighting the entire neighborhood.

*Glare is both the most common lighting problem and one of the easiest to detect and fix. Eliminate glare by shielding light fixtures so the direct rays of light cannot reach our eye.

*Use full cut-off lighting fixtures to minimize glare. Full cut-off means that no light is emitted above the horizon.

*Retrofit existing fixtures with shields to reduce glare. In some cases, small pieces of aluminum sheeting fitted to the fixture will suffice.

*Use fixtures with high-efficiency lamps, while still considering the color and quality of the light they produce.

*Avoid dusk to dawn security lights. A more effective approach to security lighting is motion detectors.

New season planting excitement!

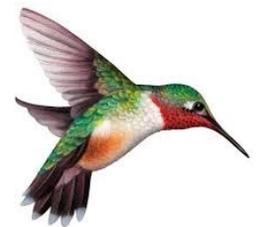
from Debi Oliverius, Middle Cullen

Thinking of planting for butterfly conservation? Milkweed is always great for the monarch butterflies, providing nourishment for their migratory patterns. But there are other beautiful options for our shorelines and sandy garden areas around the lake country.



Consider Lupine (*Lupinus perennis*). Lupine grows 1-2 feet high with blue flowers and is food for the caterpillars of the endangered Karner Blue Butterfly. Lupine likes full to partial sun and grows well in dry sandy soils where many other plants cannot survive.

Love hummingbirds? Consider beardtongue (*penstemon grandiflorus*). This plant has lavender trumpets that provide nectar for the hummingbird. Beardtongue requires good drainage, likes dry sandy and rocky soils. It will grow 2-4 feet high and loves full sun.



2017 Membership Update

As of May 9, CLA had 239 members, 14 of whom hold associate memberships, meaning they are family members of Cullen Lakes' shoreland property owners, former owners of Cullen Lakes' shoreland property, or own property in the Cullen Lakes' watershed.

There are still 25 members from 2016 who have not yet renewed their membership. If you have been a member in the past and have not yet sent in your 2017 dues but have been intending to do so, please renew your membership at your earliest convenience by mailing your \$25 dues check (donations are also welcomed) to:

CLA Membership
P.O. Box 466
Nisswa, MN 56468

Note: If your name on this newsletter's mailing label is highlighted in yellow, you had not paid CLA dues for 2017 as of May 13. This includes the 43 property owners who were not members last year. Email recipients of the newsletter will receive a separate email reminder.

**CULLEN LAKES ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 466
NISSWA, MN 56468**

To protect, preserve, and enhance the three Cullen Lakes and their environs in order to ensure the continued vitality of the lakes, high quality fish and wildlife habitat, safe and healthful family living, and the survival of these natural gifts for future generations.

CLA BOARD 2016-2017

BEAVER, Ann (Lower Cullen)
218-568-5904
beaver@uslink.net

BEILFUSS, Paul (Lower Cullen)
218-963-6028
boomer284@charter.net

BOUDRYE, Charlie (Middle Cullen)
218-963-7494
eagleye@nisswa.net

BURRELL, Jim (Lower Cullen)
218-568-5363
cullenlake@gmail.com

BYLANDER, C.B. (Upper Cullen)
218-828-4929
cb_bylander@hotmail.com

HURLEY, Dan (Lower Cullen)
612-481-3766
lonegoose15@aol.com

JOHNSON, Rich (Lower Cullen)
218-330-2655
rhdbjohnson@yahoo.com

KOSTREBA, Jim (Lower Cullen)
320-333-2425
jakostreba@gmail.com

LINDAHL, Carol (Lower Cullen)
651-206-1330
lindahlcarol@hotmail.com

MACGIBBON, John (Lower Cullen)
612-860-5864
jmacgibbon@mactek-inc.com

MCNAMARA, Jack (Lower Cullen)
651-307-9754
jmac237@comcast.net

MEIXNER, Dan (Middle Cullen)
218-568-8367
dmeixner@tds.net

OLIVERIUS, Debi (Middle Cullen)
952-261-7980
debioliverius@mac.com

OPSAHL, Denny (Upper Cullen)
651-482-1297
djopsahl@gmail.com

Officers

President: Ann Beaver
Vice President: John MacGibbon
Secretary: Carol Lindahl
Treasurer: Charlie Boudrye

Newsletter editor: Ann Beaver
CLA web site:
www.cullenlakesassoc.org
Web master: Dan Meixner