

THE CULLEN CURRENTS

Summer, 2014

CLA Annual Meeting Is August 9

The 32nd Annual Meeting of the Cullen Lakes Association will be held **Saturday, August 9** at the Nisswa American Legion. The meeting begins at 9 a.m. for your convenience in attending and still having a full day for lake activities and recreation.

A highlight of this year's meeting is a presentation by Gene Reed on her family's history on Middle Cullen. Registration and the opportunity to mingle with other CLA members and view exhibits begin at 8:30 a.m. The annual business meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and includes time for member questions. The business meeting will include an update on the treatment of curly-leaf pondweed on the Cullens, focusing on this year's treatment and what to do next year.

At registration, attendees will receive a booklet with 2014 financial information and reports from the CLA committees. Members will be asked to approve the 2015 budget and elect candidates for the Board of Directors.

Your attendance and participation in the Annual Meeting are encouraged. No reservations are needed.

Donations Deserve Another Thank You

Despite the fact that 16 past CLA members have not paid their dues yet in 2014, the association has 234 dues paying members plus 5 complimentary members (new owners). Along with their dues, 59 members included donations totaling \$2,452 to support CLA's on-going activities and 83 members included donations totaling \$4,363 to help pay for control of curlyleaf pondweed.

Although each donation was acknowledged upon receipt with a thank you letter, the CLA Board of Directors wants to say **THANK YOU** again for the generosity of so many.

Spring Road Clean Up Is a Success

by Anne Kostreba

We had another great turnout for our annual spring road clean up. Fifteen lake residents joined together on May 23, a beautiful spring morning, to pick up the garbage left along our roadways by thoughtless travelers and to officially kick off spring. Some people had some trouble figuring out how to get their reflective vests on (I might have to put together a "how to put your vest on" video for next time) but after that it was smooth sailing .



Our eager and enthusiastic crew included: Rich Johnson, Lowell Bonnema, Stu MacGibbon, Dan Hurley, Tom MacGibbon, John Maguire, Bruce Helland, Bob and Mary Stepaniak, Ann and Larry Bodensteiner, Jim Palmquist, Paul Hirshey, and Jim and Anne Kostreba. People lingered afterwards to enjoy coffee, treats and catch up on all the latest news. Many thanks to all of you for giving of your time on a holiday weekend.

Fall road clean up will be Saturday, August 30 (Labor Day weekend). Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the unofficial parking lot at Wilderness Ridge Road and Highway 371.

Spring 2014 Treatment of Curlyleaf Pondweed (CLP) Had Good Results

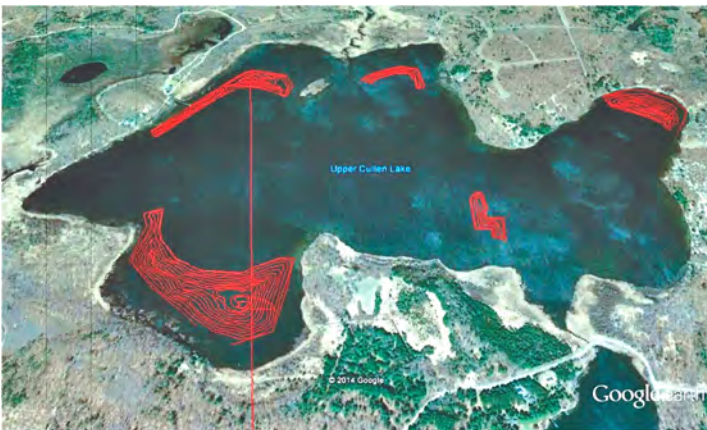
Under contract with CLA, Clarke Aquatic Services conducted its pre treatment surveys on the Cullen Lakes on May 16. Using this data, they plotted treatment polygons on each lake. On May 27 they treated 26.64 acres of CLP on Lower Cullen Lake and 18.99 acres of CLP on Middle Cullen Lake. On May 28 they treated 44.749 acres of CLP on Upper Cullen Lake. The maps below show the areas treated in each lake. (Maps are also on the new CLA web site.)



Lower Cullen (SW area obscured by lake ice in b&w copy)



Middle Cullen



Upper Cullen

The maximum number of acres allowed by the DNR to be treated is 15% of the littoral area of the lake (the portion of the lake that is less than 15 feet deep). Thus, Upper Cullen is limited to 45 acres, Middle Cullen to 19 acres, and Lower Cullen to 27 acres.

A post treatment survey was conducted on the lakes on June 16 by a Clarke technician. This survey included, among other things, throwing a double-headed rake in the treated areas to collect and visibly observe the state of the CLP. The technician noted all the CLP in the treatment zones was either dead or dying. The CLP outside the treatment zones was vibrant.

Because not all areas of CLP were able to be treated, boaters will still see patches of it around the lakes as well as pieces of healthy CLP floating in the lake after having been uprooted by anglers and other boaters.

You can do three things this summer to help the lake association get better control of this aquatic invasive species (AIS).

1. Learn to identify curlyleaf pondweed.



2. If you come across a patch of CLP, note the location either with GPS coordinates or by using shoreline features and cabins/homes. Send this information to either co-chair of the AIS Committee, Carol Lindahl or Ann Beaver. Their contact information is on the last page of this newsletter.

3. If you see any floating pieces of CLP, remove them from the lake and dispose of them on shore. They could easily have turions (seeds) attached to them. If the turions sink to the lake bottom, they will start growing as new plants in the fall.

Lower Cullen's Public Access History

by Bill Bromback

After reading the reflection in the spring edition of The Cullen Currents about the public landing next to the Brombach property, I felt it important that we supply some additional information for all property owners.

The issue of the sale of property for a public landing was never a question of "Do you want to sell?" The State of Minnesota/DNR has the legal right to take the land and legal counsel confirmed that fact. Reflecting back when the Brombachs were first approached by the State of Minnesota leads to examination of the basic principle: Who owns the lake?

As do all lakeshore owners on the Cullen Lakes, the entire Brombach family loves the lake. It is a place of happiness for us as it is for all Cullen Lakes property owners. Through our conversation with the State of Minnesota about a public landing, we came to understand that the lake is public waters; it belongs to all people of Minnesota, perhaps even to all people of the United States, not just to us lakeshore property owners. We lakeshore property owners own land adjacent to the lake, but not the lake itself. Thus, the State of Minnesota has a right to make the lake, which the public owns, available to all citizens. And the State of Minnesota has the right to claim land in order to accomplish this aim.

The issue was never whether or not the State of Minnesota was going to put in a public landing on Lower Cullen Lake; the issue was where the public landing would be located. One location suggested was much closer to the highway and, therefore, open to much more general traffic. The other spot suggested was the more secluded spot where the public landing now stands. After considerable conversation with the DNR and promises about guidelines for public safety, police patrols and road maintenance, the agreement was finalized with the State.

Working with the State offered us all the opportunity to put forward the interests of all Lower Cullen property owners, which we attempted to do with as much wisdom and good sense as possible.

Thanks for the opportunity to offer this additional perspective to the conversation about the history of the public landing on Lower Cullen.

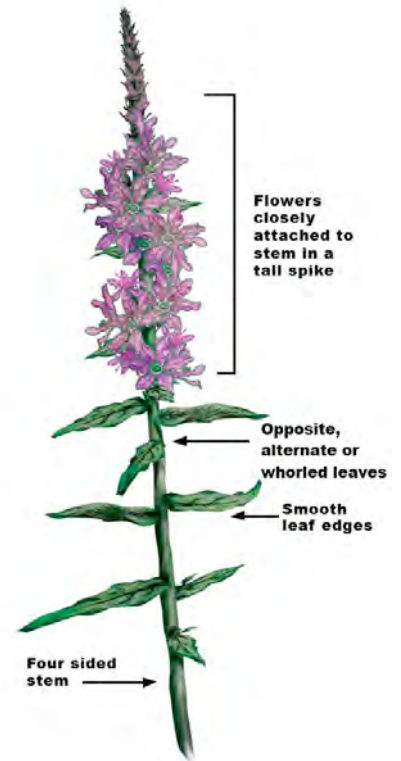
Currents on the Cullens

Deaths: Tom Theiler (U14), Bruce Helland (L84)

New Owners: Kurt & Robin Hansen (L38)

Is Purple Loosestrife Growing Along Your Shoreline?

By law, you must kill or remove any purple loosestrife (PL) on your property. If the PL is not too plentiful, the best method is to dig or pull it out by the roots. If the infestation is heavy, cut the blossoms off, being careful not to spread the seeds, and bag them up for disposal. Then cut the plant off at ground level to inhibit future growth. You can also hand spray the plants with poison. Contact the DNR for more details on spraying and to apply for a permit to do so.



Check Out Our New Website!!

by Dan Meixner

We have been working hard to get our website updated and re-hosted. It is in service now and more continues to be added daily. We will have the latest updates at the Annual Meeting in August. Please check it out at www.cullenlakesassoc.org and send us your feedback. Don't forget to check back often as we continue to add content and update the current events related to your Cullen Lakes Association.

We have the latest news on your CLA on the News page. You can also find current and archived newsletters, Currents on the Cullens, the Lake Management Plan, and many other articles and links to what's happening on our lakes. We are adding many new items in PDF format for you to download and read offline if you choose as well. This is a great way to keep up with what is happening during a three hour car ride to the lake.

In addition, you will find contact information for the Board, committee information, a photo gallery (please feel free to send us your photos of the lakes to add to the Photo Gallery and Slideshow), information on the three lakes, and updates on our treatment of Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) on the new site.

We hope you enjoy the new website design and look forward to your feedback which can be done directly from our new website.

Summer Fun Can Mean Swimmer's Itch

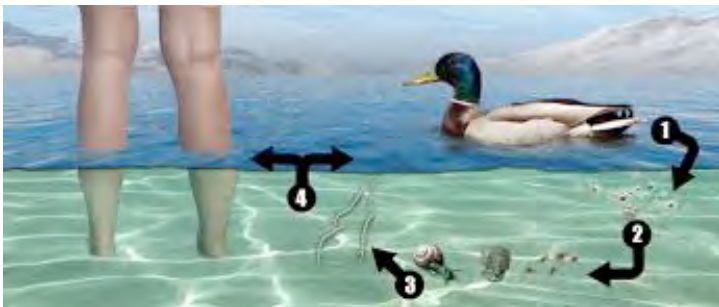
information from the DNR web site

What is Swimmer's Itch?

Swimmer's itch is a temporary skin rash that is caused by an allergic reaction to microscopic parasites that are carried by waterfowl, semi-aquatic mammals, and snails. As a part of their life cycle, these parasites are released by infected snails into the water, where they may come in contact with people and burrow into their skin.

The good news is the organism that causes swimmer's itch cannot complete its life history in the human body. Your body's immune system detects it as a foreign protein, then attacks and kills it shortly after it penetrates your skin. The itching and welts are not caused by the organism living under your skin, but by an allergic reaction.

Not everyone is sensitive to swimmer's itch. Some people show no symptoms of swimmer's itch even though others swimming at the same time and place break out severely. Much like poison ivy, however, your sensitivity to swimmer's itch will increase with each exposure. There are several over the counter remedies your pharmacist can recommend to help relieve the discomfort, but see your physician for a definitive diagnosis.



Where does it come from?

The organism that causes swimmer's itch has a complicated life history.

1. It starts out as a worm (parasite) in the intestinal lining of aquatic birds and mammals (host).
2. The worms lay eggs inside the the host animal.
3. The eggs are eliminated by the host and drop to the bottom of the lake.
4. Then the eggs hatch into miracidia that swim around in the water until they find a snail.
5. Once they find a snail, they live inside them and develop into cercariae.
6. The snails then release the cercariae back into the water where they look for another host - aquatic birds, mammals or humans.
7. When the cercariae find a potential host, they burrow into the host's skin.
8. If the host is suitable, the life cycle starts all over again.
9. Humans are not a suitable host and the cercariae die after penetrating the skin.

Note: Swimmer's itch is not spread from person to person.

Reducing the odds of getting swimmer's itch

The cercariae only live for a day or so and typically swim around in the upper few inches of lake water. This increases their chances of coming into contact with a duck. Once the cercariae is in the duck, it easily moves around the lake as a parasite, and ultimately along the shoreline.

There are actions you can take to help reduce your odds of getting swimmer's itch.

- Keep waterfowl away from your dock and shoreline. If you are feeding waterfowl (ducks and geese) from your dock, stop. If ducks like to rest on your dock, do what you can to discourage them. You can try putting an owl wind sock or statue on your dock and move it around occasionally so the ducks don't become accustomed to it.
- Stay out of the water by the shore. The swimmer's itch organism may originate somewhere else in the lake and is being brought to your shoreline by wave action or currents. You may want to try swimming from a raft or boat farther out from shore where you are less likely to come into contact with the cercaria. Of course, this strategy may not be practical if you don't swim or have young children who want to play in the water near shore.
- Apply a water repellent substance such as petroleum jelly, waterproof sunscreen or other skin oils to reduce the ability of the Cercariae to penetrate the skin.
- Dry off with a towel as soon as you get out of the water. When you get out of the lake, don't let the water evaporate off your skin. The organism in the droplets of water on your skin will look for somewhere to go as the droplet of water evaporates.

If all else fails.

Copper sulfate may be used to kill the snails which are an intermediate host of the parasite.

- You **MUST** get a permit from your DNR **regional fisheries office** to use copper sulfate.
- The copper sulfate will only kill the snails present at the time of application; any snails which enter the area afterwards will not be effected.
- Copper sulfate may only be temporary and will require more than one treatment.
- Usually only a small percentage of the snails in a lake carry the infection, and they may not be the ones around your dock.

Fourth of July Boat Parades

The weather was not ideal -- a bit cool, very cloudy, a strong south wind -- but that did not deter the hardy folks on Middle and Lower Cullen from enjoying their annual July 4th boat parade nor did it deter a few residents on Upper Cullen from enjoying their annual holiday lake cruise!

Middle Cullen's parade had 18 participating watercraft, ranging from pontoons and pleasure boats, some pulling tubers, to a kayak and paddle board. The south wind was not as great a factor on Middle Cullen as it was on Lower Cullen, due to the long, narrow shape of the lake.



photo by Alycen Farrell



photos by Ann Beaver

Lower Cullen's parade included 29 watercraft, down a bit from past years, but still a good parade. It included pontoons, boats of all kinds, several jet skis, a water skier carrying an American flag, and several patriotic tubers cautiously pulled behind boats. Lots of American flags were visible throughout the parade.



photo by Brad Opsahl

County Fair Hosts Free Well Water Testing for Nitrates

Crow Wing County and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture are pleased to once again offer free nitrate testing for residents of Crow Wing County and surrounding areas during the Crow Wing County Fair, July 29 - August 2.

Landowners may bring in a fresh sample of water from their tap to the County booth in the Natural Resources building. The test takes a matter of seconds. For best results, a 1 cup sample should be taken after running the tap for several minutes and before any filtering is done. Participants are also encouraged to bring their unique well number, which can be found on the well, and the approximate age and depth of the well.

After the fair, testing will again be offered on a regular basis at the Crow Wing County Land Service Department in Brainerd during normal business hours.

Because nitrates and other contaminants are not detected by sight, smell, or taste, Crow Wing County encourages landowners to regularly have their water tested. Because the County only tests for nitrates, residents may contact one of several certified laboratories in the Brainerd area to conduct a wider range of tests.

Additional Pharmaceutical Drop Box to Be Placed in Nisswa

Crow Wing County already has pharmaceutical drop off bins in Brainerd, Crosby, and Breezy Point. It will soon be placing one in Nisswa. All sites are located at the respective law enforcement centers in each of these communities. These drop off bins help to keep pharmaceutical chemicals out of the waste stream so they will not end up in landfill leachate or in a wastewater treatment system. In 2012, the County disposed of 630 pounds of pharmaceuticals. In 2013, it disposed of 800 pounds. So far in 2014, the total is just over 500 pounds.

High Water Levels + Waves = Erosion!

While lake water levels remain high, please operate your watercraft wisely and create as little wake as possible. The shoreline you save could be your own!

A Shoreland Stewardship Checklist

In Minnesota, we value our lakes. How well does your waterfront protect shoreland habitat and water quality? Put your property to the test by answering five short questions from the Shoreland Stewardship Checklist.

Do you have a buffer zone of native vegetation close to the shoreline? Native species are heartier and adapted to local soil and climate conditions. The tangle of native roots along your shoreline will filter impurities from runoff and stabilize the shoreline, while the foliage from trees, shrubs and plants provide critical shelter for shoreland wildlife.



Do you use pesticides or herbicides on your lawn or gardens? If you're fertilizing your lawn, you may as well be fertilizing the algae and rooted aquatic vegetation in your lake. About 55 percent of rain falling on turf lawns ends up in the lake, bringing surface-applied chemicals with it. Most Minnesota soils are already phosphorus rich, which is why Minnesota law prohibits using fertilizers containing phosphorus except in certain situations.

Have you preserved or replaced mature trees along your shoreline? The extensive root networks from mature trees stabilize the slope down to the water's edge. The shade from these giants also provides a cooling effect in the shallow near-shore waters, where 90 percent of a lake's fish and wildlife species live or travel.

Do you leave fallen trees and branches in the shallow waters outside of your water recreation area? Fish and wildlife use these critical pieces of habitat for shelter and resting areas. Herons, turtles and largemouth bass are a few of the critters that love these over- and in-water structures. Fallen trees and branches also dampen wave impacts along your shoreline, which can help prevent erosion.

Are there bare spots -- devoid of vegetation -- on your lot? Bare soil can create major erosion, sedimentation, and nutrient loading problems in the lake. Bare spots are often caused by foot traffic, shading, construction projects, or uneven water flow. Replanting native ground cover in these bare areas can help water infiltrate rather than run off into the lake.

Shoreland stewardship practices benefit all Minnesotans. If you value your lake, take care of your shore!

CLA Merchandise for Sale

The Cullen Lakes Association has the following merchandise for sale.

| <u>Item # & description</u> | <u>Color</u> | <u>Size</u> | <u>Price</u> |
|---------------------------------|---|---------------------|--------------|
| RE004 Cap | Navy, Beige | | \$15 |
| 29M Adult T-Shirt | Forest Green, Navy, Pink Black, Gray, Red | S, M, L, XL, 2XL | \$15 \$18 |
| 562M Adult Sweatshirt | Forest Green, Navy, Royal Blue Pink, Black | S, M, L, XL, 2XL | \$20 \$23 |
| 996M Adult Hoodie Sweatshirt | Forest Green, Navy, Royal Blue Pink, Black | S, M, L, XL, 2XL | \$30 \$33 |
| L265 Lady's Fleece | Pink Rush, Black | S, M, L, XL | \$45 |
| 8400 Adult Long Sleeve Shirt | Black, Navy, Forest Green Gray, Royal Blue | S, M, L, XL 2XL | \$20 \$23 |
| Coffee Mug | Blue with CLA Logo | | \$7 |
| 16 oz. Glass | Clear with CLA Logo | | \$7 |

Send your order and payment (**personal check made out to CLA**) to CLA Board member Jim Burrell, 4857 Wilderness Ridge Road, Nisswa, MN 56468. Please include your name, lake and home addresses, phone number(s), and email address. Jim will contact you to arrange for pick up or delivery once the merchandise is ready.



embroidered logo on clothing

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.

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