



Ripples

CROW WING COUNTY
LAKES AND RIVERS ALLIANCE
P.O. BOX 53, PEQUOT LAKES, MN 56472

In This Issue

- Successful Lakes and Rivers Conference
- President's Message
- Annual Meeting Date - Mark Your Calendar
- CWEPA Fund
- AIS Funding
- MLR Executive Director to Speak
- New Book - Lakeshore Living
- AIS Survey
- Get To Know Your Board Members
- Calendar of Events

- Aquatic invasive species
- Restoring aquatic habitat
- Watersheds
- Local impact and how to achieve goals and
- Groundwater, nutrient management and run-off.

There were 35 different workshops and breakout sessions on the topics.

Information shared at the conference can be found at <http://www.extension.umn.edu/environment/water/state-of-water/index.html>.

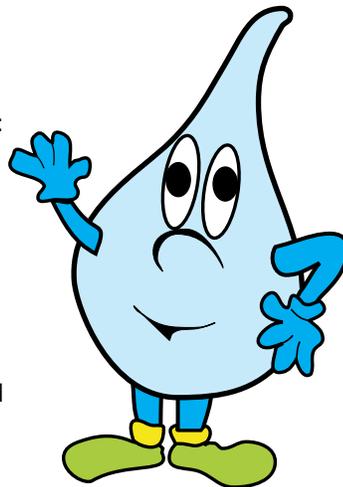
Successful Lakes and Rivers Conference

By: Jodi Eberhardt, LARA Board Director and Eleanor Burkett, University of Minnesota Extension, LARA Board Ex Officio

The Minnesota Lakes and Rivers conference was held at Cragun's Resort on May 1 and 2. Over 300 people attended to share information on challenges and opportunities facing Minnesota's waters.

The program was focused on the needs and interests of lake association members, naturalists, citizen scientists, local decision makers and citizens concerned about the future of our lakes and rivers.

The conference had five-track series of workshops and breakout sessions designed to cover a wide range of significant issues:



President's Message

By: Mike O'Brien

The Minnesota Legislature recently passed an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) bill that provides funds to Minnesota Counties for AIS prevention efforts—not for treatment. The formula for the funding was based on each county's number of watercraft trailer accesses as well as the number of watercraft trailer parking spots. Crow Wing County was allocated roughly 4.5% of the total, which equates to approximately \$202,000 in 2014 (after July 1), and \$450,000 for 2015 and subsequent years if the funding is renewed for subsequent years.

LARA represents over 35 lake associations in Crow Wing County and we hope to be involved in representing our member's interests as these funds are distributed. A survey was done by the MN Coalition of Lake Associations last year to determine how much was spent annually by lake associations on treatment of AIS; it was over \$6 million a year statewide and over 3/4 million in Crow Wing County alone. Some lake associations with AIS have Lake Improvement Districts (LIDs) which help with the cost of treatment. The DNR grant program is limited in assistance. Still, lake associations are spending hundreds of thousands of private funds for the management of AIS in public waters for public benefit. Crow Wing County should not just focus on inspection programs. The discussion of how to spend the new money must also include how to monetarily assist lake association in treating AIS and also good treatment and containment programs as a prevention strategy. We will keep our members informed as to how this turns out.

Mark Your Calendar for the LARA Annual Meeting!

Location: Lake Edward Town Hall

Date: Tuesday, August 26, 2014

Time: 7-9 p.m.

CWEPA Grant Applications Available August 26

By Ann Beaver

The Crow Wing Environment Protection Advised Fund (CWEPA Fund), administered by the Crow Wing County Lakes and Rivers Alliance (LARA), makes grants to support projects, programs, and activities that lead to protection, restoration, and preservation of natural resources and environmental assets within Crow Wing County.



Although applications won't be available until the LARA annual meeting on August 26, it's not too early to begin thinking about and putting together a proposal for a project your lake association would like to undertake next year with some possible financial help from the CWEPA Fund. Each year the CWEPA Fund awards one or more grants using earnings from the principal it has invested through the Initiative Foundation. Any funds awarded must be matched by the recipient of the grant.

Awards are made for the following purposes:

- Building the capacity of lake associations or other nonprofits working in natural resource protection in Crow Wing County. Examples could include skills training, leadership development, membership recruitment, or educational projects which result in measurable changes in behavior.
- Supporting site specific projects which protect or restore natural resources. Examples could include lakescaping or native buffer enhancement projects, fisheries or wildlife habitat protection or restoration, or educational programs to prevent aquatic invasive species spread or introduction (excluding public access monitoring).
- Implementation of projects which address causes (rather than treating symptoms) and promote action. For example, grant funds could not be used to support aquatic vegetation control for nuisance management or aesthetic reasons, but could be used for a project which mitigates nutrient inputs which exacerbate aquatic vegetation growth.

Applicants must be a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. LARA does provide fiscal agent services, at a nominal charge, for its member organizations that do not have this non-profit status. 🐾

LARA Seeks To Be A Voice In AIS Spending

By Phil Hunsicker

Recently, LARA sent a letter to the County requesting that county officials meet with representatives of LARA and the lake associations we represent to discuss how best to use the state dollars that have been allocated to counties to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS).

From 2010 to 2012, lake associations in Crow Wing County spent approximately \$805,000 of their own money to prevent the spread of AIS in public waters. With this new influx of state money for AIS prevention, which is meant to encourage local control and local use, it makes sense for the County to work closely with LARA and lake associations to come up with a plan for its use. LARA encourages our lake association members to contact their county commissioner, County Administrator Tim Houle, and personnel within the County Land Services Department to push for an open dialogue between the County and its lake associations.

This issue will come before the County Board on June 24th. If you have an opinion, please show up, stand up, and speak up. 🐾

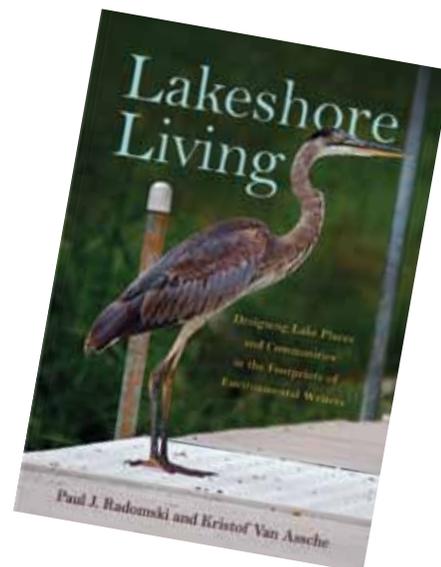
MLR Executive Director to Speak at LARA Annual Meeting

Join us Tuesday, August 26, 2014, at Lake Edward Town Hall to hear Jeff Forester, Executive Director of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates speak. 🐾

New Book May Be Of Interest To Lakeshore Owners

Kristof Van Assche, a Belgian landscape architect, and Paul Radomski, DNR research scientist, just published a book on lakes and designing lake places. The title of this book is Lakeshore Living (see cover at right). This book might be of interest to your members, especially since many of Paul's recent experiences have been working on the beautiful Crow Wing County lakes and with LARA.

Get a copy by asking for it at your local library or bookstore, contacting Michigan State University Press online at: www.msupress.msu.edu, or purchase online at Amazon, Barnes and Nobles, etc. 🐾



AIS Survey for Lake Associations and LID's

We are collecting information as to how lake associations and Lake Improvement Districts (LIDs) are dealing with AIS in Crow Wing County lakes. Please have one person designated from your organization to complete this short survey by sending an email to Mike O'Brien (mikeobriens@gmail.com) by July 10. Please be sure to use the corresponding number or letter for each of your responses in reference to each question.

We will tabulate the results and print them in our next newsletter and post them on our website. Thank you.

1. Lake Name/Association _____
2. Total acreage _____
3. Mean Depth of lake _____
4. Aquatic Invasive Species identified in your lake _____
5. Year AIS first identified _____
6. Percentage or number of acres of lake affected _____
7. Method(s) of treatment _____

8. Professional Applicator(s) used _____
9. How long have you been treating _____
10. How would you rate the effectiveness of treatment _____
11. Other comments you would like to add: _____

Questions for those who have a LID

- A. What has your LID accomplished? _____

- B. In your opinion, what has the LID done for the lake that the existing lake association or similar group could not have done, or could have done only with difficulty? _____

- C. How would you describe your experiences with the LID? _____

- D. If you were forming a LID today, is there anything you would do differently? _____

- E. Is there anything about the LID process or its operation that you wish you would have known when you first formed the LID? _____

- F. Do you think that your lake is in a better state because of the existence of the LID? _____
- G. Other comments you would like to add: _____

Get to know your Board Members

Phil Hunsicker

What prompted you to become a member of the LARA board?

I was new to the region, had just bought a home on Red Sand Lake, and was doing work for 1000 Friends of Minnesota, which helps communities find a balance between development and conservation. I was trying to get to know individuals and organizations that could partner with 1000 Friends, so I decided to attend a LARA meeting and was asked if I'd be interested in becoming a board member. I enjoyed the people and the work they were doing, so I joined up. More than 10 years later, I still enjoy the work and the people.



What lake or river are you most connected to (in Crow Wing County)?

Obviously, since I live on Red Sand Lake, I am most connected to that lake.

What lake or river environmental issue is most important to you, and what are you doing to help the cause?

After working for more than 10 years with 1000 Friends, which later became Envision Minnesota, I still have a passion for finding that balance of development with conservation. I helped start the lake-friendly development awards, which recognizes homeowners and contractors who are trying to develop lakeshore property in an ecologically sensitive manner. I'm also still a partner in the Brainerd Area Environmental Learning Network (BAELN), which brings in speakers every month to talk on environmental and sustainability issues.

What can others do to help with this cause?

I think we all need to prioritize environmental issues, especially in the Brainerd Lakes Region, where everything good is connected to a healthy environment. We need to elect leaders who understand how important our environment is, who are willing to learn more, and who make their decisions based on what is good for the long-term health of our environment and our communities. 🐾

Calendar of Events

June 19: Lake Friendly Awards meeting to discuss nominees. If you have a project you would like to nominate, contact Phil Hunsicker at phunsicker@q.com

June 24: County Board meeting on recommendations for use of the county program aid money to prevent the spread of AIS

August 26: Opening of application period for 2015 CWEPA Fund grants. Deadline for applications – November 30, 2014

August 26: LARA Annual Meeting, 7-9 p.m., Lake Edward Town Hall

October 20-22: The Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference will be held at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC)
www.UMISC2014.org

LARA Board Of Directors 2013-2014

Ann & Tom Beaver
218-568-5904
beaver@uslink.net

Eleanor Burkett
218-828-2326
burke044@umn.edu

Jodi Eberhardt
612-298-2935

Sharon Herwig
218-828-4091
CrowWingLARA@gmail.com

Sandy Holm
218-765-3309
rnsholm@brainerd.net

Phil Hunsicker
218-825-9215
phunsicker@q.com

Mike O'Brien
218-764-2666
mikeobriens@gmail.com

Mike Simon
612-822-2575
651-231-5829
and
218-764-3312
gmikes130@msn.com

Harold Stewart
218-963-3878 and
507-289-5314
stu5010@juno.com

George Vilfordi
218-963-1021 and
214-357-132
georgevilfordi@verizon.net

Paula West
218-838-5010
westcom@brainerd.net

Officers:
Co-Presidents – Mike O'Brien
Phil Hunsicker
Vice President – Sandy Holm
Secretary – Ann Beaver
Treasurer – Ann Beaver

Newsletter Editor: Sharon Herwig