



# Ripples

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

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## 2016 Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference

The 2016 Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference will be held in scenic La Crosse, WI from October 17-19, 2016.

Click [here](#) to register with early registration pricing.

Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference (UMISC) presentations, exhibits, and special sessions cover all invasive aquatic and terrestrial plants, animals, insects and pathogens. UMISC's purpose is to strengthen management of invasive species, especially prevention, control, and containment.

In 2016, UMISC welcomes a special joint workshop for Attorney Generals and Deputy Attorney Generals of the Mississippi River Basin hosted by the Mississippi River Basin Panel (MRBP) on Aquatic Nuisance Species. UMISC attendees will be available

to attend the MRBP workshop on Tuesday, October 18 in the afternoon and meet with Attorney Generals and their staff at the Tuesday evening reception and throughout the conference.

Preliminary schedule including field trips and plenaries are up on the website [here](#). The program committee is currently organizing the over 200 presentations that have been submitted for review. A more complete schedule of concurrent sessions will be available soon.

Conference hosts are the Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin, Midwest Invasive Plant Network, and the Minnesota Invasive Species Advisory Council

UMISC 2016 – 414.967.1350 – [bbergner@umisc.net](mailto:bbergner@umisc.net)



## President's Message

By *Phil Hunsicker*

### Invasive Species Blues

The snow and ice are gone, the loons are back, lawn mowers can once again be heard on Saturday mornings, and most of us who are lucky enough to live on lakes are scrambling to get our docks and boats in the water for another too-short summer of fun. It's also a great time to remind everyone that summer is when aquatic invasive species (AIS) travel around the area looking for some prime in-lake property to put down some roots (literally and figuratively). Please make sure your boats, trailers, wave runners, docks, boat lifts, swim rafts and any other piece of equipment that goes in and out of the water is properly cleaned. The newest slogan is "Clean In, Clean Out."

As a musician with a local band – Hans Blix and the Weapons Inspectors – I thought I would come up with a song that probably won't solve the problem of AIS, but at least we can have a catchy tune in our heads while we put those heads together to figure out a real solution. I put the words to an old blues song called "St. Louis Blues." One of my favorite musicians of all time – Doc Watson – does a great version of this song. Here is a YouTube link if you want to check it out. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nXPLIE20RjY>. I call my own version, "Invasive Species Blues." Enjoy, and have a "clean" summer!

*Invasive Species Blues by Phil Hunsicker*

I hate to see  
Invasive species spread around  
I hate to see  
Invasive species in my town  
You know it makes be blue  
It really brings me down

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# Reminder - 2017 CWEPA Fund Grant

By Ann Beaver

The Crow Wing Environment Protection Advised Fund (CWEPA Fund) opened its 2017 grant application period on May 1. Grant applications for projects that will take place in 2017 are available on the Crow Wing County Lakes and Rivers Alliance (LARA) web site - CrowWingLARA.org. The deadline for submitting an application is September 30, 2016. The amount available in matching funds for 2017 projects will be approximately \$3,000.

Past recipients and their projects are:

2012 - Cullen Lakes Association (\$600), to assist in establishing an aquatic plant identification and management program; Lake Hubert Conservation Association (\$742), to involve, educate, and encourage lakeshore property owners to become more active in monitoring and preventing AIS.

2013 - The City of Nisswa (\$2,500) to replace the trees along the Highway 371 corridor near downtown Nisswa lost when the highway was expanded through the city.

2014 - Pelican Lakes Association (\$2,800), to help fund its well testing for water quality project.

2015 - Crow Wing County Soil and Water Conservation District (\$2,500), to help fund the creation of a vegetated catch basin for stormwater control between the west end of Round Lake and Highway 371.

CWEPA Fund grants are available to all non-profit or local government organizations wishing to complete an environmental project in Crow Wing County. Proposals must align with the mission of protecting or restoring the natural resources of Crow Wing County. Grant funds received must be matched by the recipient. If your organization is interested in applying for the grant but is not a registered non-profit organization, LARA does provide fiscal services, at a nominal charge, for its member organizations.

Anyone interested in learning more about the CWEPA Fund or making a tax-deductible donation to the fund should contact Phil Hunsicker at 218-824-5095 or by email at [phunsicker@q.com](mailto:phunsicker@q.com).



## From the Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations (MNCOLA)

Dear MN COLA members and interested parties,  
Please save the date for the 2016 MN COLA Annual Meeting/Board Meeting on Tuesday, June 21, 2016. We have a location reserved in St. Cloud, but we are interested to see if any group would volunteer to host the meeting. If your group is interested, please contact Joe Shneider via email or at 612-209-2075 (cell).

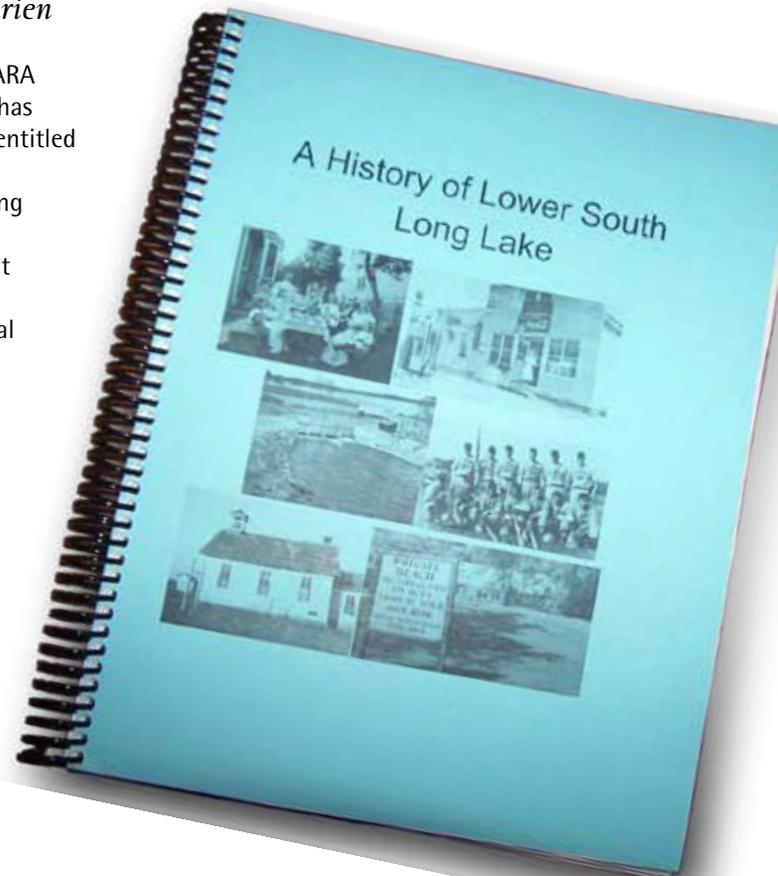
This is an important meeting as we elect our Board and Officers for the next year. We hope you will consider running for one of the leadership roles: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Communications, Membership. We absolutely need your involvement!

Thank you,  
Joe Shneider  
Secretary, MN COLA

## The History of Lower South Long Lake

By Mike O'Brien

Mike O'Brien, LARA board member, has written a book entitled "The History of Lower South Long Lake." The book can be viewed at the Crow Wing County Historical Society and will be available for purchase after Memorial Day.



### Reminder!

If you have not paid your dues, now would be an opportune time. If you are unsure if your dues have been paid, follow this [link](#) to the current paid membership list on CrowWingLara.org

# The 13th Annual Lake Friendly Development Awards with Lakes and Loons

*BAELN (Brainerd Area Environmental Learning Network)*

Join us for the final BAELN event of the season with a fun, uplifting afternoon as we present the 13th annual Lake-Friendly Development Awards. These awards, which are sponsored by area environmental organizations, recognize homeowners, business owners, contractors and local units of government that have chosen to develop or redevelop their lakeshore or riverfront properties in full compliance with shoreland zoning ordinances and ecologically sustainable and sensitive principles.

Thursday, June 16, 2016, from 3:00-4:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Land Services Building, 322 Laurel St., Brainerd, Lower Level, Meeting Room 2. Located behind the Historic Crow Wing County Courthouse. Free parking in the county lot on the corner of 4th and Laurel.

Networking from 3:00-3:15.

Speaker with award presentations from 3:15-4:30.

Session is free and all are invited.

## *Lakes and Loons*

Our speaker, Kevin Woizeschke, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Nongame Wildlife Specialist, will share information on the technology that scientists use to track and observe the Minnesota Common Loons; the latest research that provides new knowledge and insights into the loons' biology, behaviors, lives and habitat; the challenges these magnificent birds have; and the ways the DNR and its research partners are working together to help increase populations. Woizeschke will also provide information on the relationship between healthy lakes and healthy loon populations, and how each of us can help maintain these vital Minnesota assets that we all enjoy.



We hope you can join us for this final BAELN event of the season. It will be a great way to kick off your summer!

The Lake Friendly Development Awards are presented by: Brainerd Lakes Area Audubon Society (BLAAS), Crow Wing County Lakes and Rivers Alliance (LARA), Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District (CW SWCD), DNR Division of Ecological and Water Resources, DNR Section of Fisheries, Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (AFS), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and University of Minnesota Extension.

Visit the BAELN Facebook Page or the BAELN YouTube Channel to view videos of previous sessions.

If you have questions concerning this presentation, please contact Eleanor Burkett at burke044@umn.edu or 218-828-2326.

The Brainerd Area Environmental Learning Network is a collaborative effort of: Central Lakes College, Central Regional Sustainable Development Partnership, Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District, Initiative Foundation, MN Department of Natural Resources, MN Department of Transportation, MN National Guard Environmental, MN Pollution Control Agency, The Nature Conservancy, and University of Minnesota Extension. 

## President's Message

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And if I feel tomorrow  
Like I'm feelin' today  
Oh if I feel tomorrow  
As blue as I'm feelin' today  
I'm gonna box me up some zebra mussels  
And send them back to their homes far away

Yeah they should be over in Russia  
In Eastern Europe too  
But like me they moved to my lake  
What's a Minnesotan to do?

Now they're living on my Chris Craft  
And on the poles of my docks  
To swim I have to wear sneakers  
And I do but with black socks  
Because that rocks!

I've got the invasive species blues  
Just as blue as I can be  
Now Mr. Zebra Mussel's throwin' a beach party  
And he's invited Mr. Spiny Water Flea  
These good-for-nothin' invasive species  
They're makin' fools out of you and me

All is not lost  
I'm told there's plenty we can do  
All is not lost  
I'm told it's up to me and you  
So my brain has started workin'  
To come up with an idea or two

You see I'm gonna hit  
Every McDonald's between Maine and Washington  
You see I've got a plan  
To get something done  
I'm gonna ask them to slip a zebra mussel  
Between every beef patty and sesame seed bun

Yeah billions will be served  
And they won't even know  
We'll just hide the taste with more catsup  
And people will eat our worthy foe

Happy meals might not be so happy  
But into the box we can fit  
A slightly bigger toy  
To thank them for eating an invertebrate  
And a little bit of grit!

I no longer have the blues  
Now I just want to sing  
I've come up with an idea  
That is brilliant and interesting  
And if I crave a fast food burger  
I'll just go to Burger King



# Get to know your Board Members

*Nick Bernier*

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

I was inspired by previous LARA Board members – forward thinking and hard working folks like Ron Hedlund and Paula West – after working with them on AIS (aquatic invasive species) and lakeshore preservation issues for our own lake association. I've been receiving LARA newsletters for years, was able to attend some annual LARA meetings after I retired, saw and liked what LARA was doing, a Board position opened up, and I volunteered.

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

I've been actively involved in Mission Lakes Association for many years. Due to their structure our two lakes are particularly susceptible to water quality degradation from man-made intrusions and we are also battling AIS (currently curly leaf pondweed and Eurasian milfoil) with inadequate funds.

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

Preservation of our water quality has to be a priority item as our most valuable renewable resource. AIS researchers at the University need to be adequately funded as do current AIS control efforts. Shoreland protection from overdevelopment is a concern. Crow Wing County's recent practice of allowing filling and building on shoreland-wetlands is particularly disturbing as not all wetlands are equal. Preserving a few acres of non-shoreland wetland in another county so you can fill in and build on shoreland-wetland on a sensitive lake in Crow Wing County seems to me to be short-sighted and ecologically irresponsible.

*What can others do to help with this cause?*

Educate, educate, educate! Learn about these issues, get involved, share your knowledge with others – especially if you own lake/river property. Many of us, including me, had no sense of water quality issues on arrival in our lakes country, and needed to be educated. 🐸



## Calendar of Events

**September 12, 2016:**

MN Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) Research and Management Showcase, St. Paul, MN. For more information click [here](#).

**October 5-6, 2016:**

Aquatic Invaders Summit II, Rivers Edge Convention Center St. Cloud, MN. For more information click [here](#).

**October 17-19, 2016:**

Upper Midwest Aquatic Invasive Species Conference, Lacrosse WI. For more information click [here](#).

**October 18-19, 2016:**

Minnesota Water Resources Conference, River Center, St. Paul, MN. More information will be in our next newsletter.

## AIS Links

Crow Wing county has a web page all about AIS. You can find it [here](#).

MN Coalition of Lake Associations (MN COLA) and Minnesota Lakes & Rivers Advocates (MLR) have released a flyer about AIS. Download your copy [here](#).



## LARA Board Of Directors 2015-2016

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**Officers:**

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Phil Hunsicker**

**Vice President – Sandy Holm**

**Secretary – Ann Beaver**

**Treasurer – Ann Beaver**

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