



Ripples

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

In This Issue

- Annual Meeting Recap
- President's Message
- Online Survey from CWC
- Water Warrior Award
- Trailer Decal Requirement
- AIS Survey Results
- Get To Know Your Board Members
- Calendar of Events

Annual Meeting Recap

By: Phil Hunsicker, LARA Co-President

LARA held its annual meeting on August 26th at the Lake Edward Town Hall. We had excellent attendance, which is often tough to do on a beautiful end-of-summer evening. Sixteen of LARA's 35 lake association supporting members were represented. They all heard presentations by Jeff Forester, Executive Director of the Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates, and Crow Wing County Water Planner Mitch Brinks. Jeff talked about statewide efforts to combat AIS, and what is happening in St. Paul, and Mitch talked about how Crow Wing County will utilize AIS dollars coming directly to the county.

Three LARA board members stepped down from the board of directors – Paula West, George Vilfordi,

and Jodi Eberhardt – but two more folks stepped up to take their places – Scott Brand of Lake Hubert and Jodi Billy of Pelican Lake. If you or anyone you know would be interested in a position on the LARA board, please contact any board officer (contact information on the last page of this newsletter).

Mike Duval of the Minnesota DNR, and a former LARA board member, received the 2014 Water Warrior Award.

This year's recipient of the CWEPA Fund grant – Pelican Lakes Association – gave a report on how they are using the money to test drinking water wells around the lake in order to identify problem areas. Grant applications are now available on the LARA website for anyone interested in receiving CWEPA Fund grant dollars for 2015. 🦋



The audience enjoying the program

President's Message

By: Mike O'Brien, LARA Co-President

This has certainly been an interesting summer for LARA. Several issues have arisen that need the attention of all lake associations and those concerned with environmental issues. In addition to the ever present AIS there is also concern about the route of the Sandpiper pipeline through portions of the lakes areas.

Many of you have different ideas about the need for another pipeline and which route is safest for the environment. You can find this [map](#) of the proposed routes on our website.

The legislative funding for the prevention and treatment of AIS became a reality in late June. Faced with a limited time to get citizen input Crow Wing County quickly came up with a [budget](#) for this year (also located on the LARA website). The county is seeking citizen input via online surveys. If you have not completed a survey, please do, as soon as possible.

On August 26 LARA held its annual meeting at the Lake Edward town hall. It was well attended and the speakers Jeff Forester ([Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates](#)) and Mitch Brinks from Crow Wing County had good up-to-date information.

Remember that LARA is here for you—the lake associations of Crow Wing County. We are doing as much as possible to keep you informed concerning AIS prevention and treatment, lakeshore restoration and protection and any issues pertaining to water quality. We need your input to do our job. Through our newsletter, website, facebook and our monthly meetings we hope to continue to represent you—and communicate with you!

Best wishes for a great fall season on the lake! 🦋

Crow Wing County is now seeking input for how to best use this funding for AIS prevention efforts in 2015 and subsequent years, provided that state funds are available for the program.

Please participate in this 8-question online survey:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/cwcaisfunding>

Mike Duval is 2014 Water Warrior Award Recipient

By Phil Hunsicker

The Water Warrior Award is given out by LARA each year at our annual meeting. It goes to an individual or an organization that is working selflessly and tirelessly on behalf of Crow Wing County's greatest natural resource – its water. This year, the award went to Mike Duval of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Mike has proven himself to be an expert in all things aquatic, but more importantly, Mike has shown himself to be an accomplished relationship builder. He willingly shares his knowledge with lakeshore owners, lake associations, COLAs and LARAs, elected officials, conservation nonprofits, and other state agency personnel. Then – and this is the really tricky part that he does so well – he gets them all to work together to find solutions to big problems. For Mike, the process is just as important as the results. Mike was awarded a beautiful framed photograph taken by LARA board member Sandy Holm. He also



From left: Phil Hunsicker, Mike Duval, Mike O'Brien

received the traditional Water Warrior poem written by LARA board member Phil Hunsicker. Mike's poem, as well as poems for previous Water Warrior winners can be viewed on the LARA website. 🐾

New Trailer Decal Requirement

If you trailer a boat or water-related equipment like docks and lifts in Minnesota, you must take AIS training and get a trailer decal.

- Online training will be available here on January 5, 2015.
- Paper home-study training packets will also be available.
- Trailer decals are required on trailers starting July 1, 2015.

For more information, go to <http://trailers.mndnr.gov/>. 🐾

AIS Survey for Lake Associations and LIDs Results

Thank you for your responses to our AIS Survey. Here is an overview of the results. The full [survey](#) results can be found on the LARA website.

Mission Lakes (Upper and Lower)

Total acreage: 1500 acres

Aquatic Invasive Species identified:

Lower Mission- Curlyleaf pondweed, Eurasian watermilfoil (treated, none for past two years)

Upper Mission: Curlyleaf pondweed, Eurasian watermilfoil.

Method(s) of treatment: Chemical treatments

Professional Applicator(s) used: Professional Lake Management

Lower South Long Lake

Total Acreage: 13,000 acres

AIS identified: Curlyleaf pondweed

Method(s) of treatment: aquathol-K

Professional applicators: Lake Restoration

Lake Edward Conservation Club (LECC)

Size: 2579 acres as per MPCA website

AIS identified: Curlyleaf pondweed

Not being treated at this time.

The full narrative of this survey can be found on the LARA website

Friends of Lower Hay

Total Acreage: 685 acres

AIS identified: zebra mussels

Not being treated at this time.

Cullen Lakes Association (Lower, Middle, and Upper Cullen)

Total Acreage: Lower (512 acres), Middle (405 acres), Upper (459 acres)

AIS identified: Curlyleaf pondweed

Method(s) of treatment: Aquathol K.

Professional applicators: Clarke Aquatic Services

Bass Lake Association

Total Acreage: 310 acres

AIS identified: none

Get to know your Board Members

Mike O'Brien

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

I was asked to fill the position on the board that was being vacated. Wanting to increase the visibility of the lakes in the southeast area of the county I agreed to fill the vacancy.



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

I am most connected to Lower South Long lake. As president of the lake association and also of the Lake Improvement District I have been involved in grant writing, septic system inspections and the formation of the LID.

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

Managing and controlling AIS has always been a high priority with our association. Water quality has always been a high priority with me. I have participated in several forums on AIS and also have made presentations to lake associations wanting to form their own LID.

What can others do to help with this cause?

People can do several things to improve water quality. They can adhere to proven best practices when it comes to maintaining their septic systems and drainfields. They can keep campfires back and away from the shoreline. Most importantly, they can check their boats and trailers for aquatic invasive species both when launching and taking them out of the water. At the end of the season they should inspect their docks and lifts for AIS and report any suspected items such as zebra mussels to the DNR. 🐼

Calendar of Events

September 13, 2014: 6th Annual Lakes and Farm Harvest Dinner. For more information, Contact Judy Wallschlaeger 218-543-6257 or Cass County Farm Bureau 218-587-5531

October 9, 2014: Lake Friendly Awards, Land Services Building, lower level meeting room, 3:00 p.m., Paul Radomski will be the speaker.

October 20-22, 2014: The Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference will be held at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC) www.UMISC2014.org

November 30, 2014: deadline for application period for 2015 CWEPA Fund grants.

LARA Board Of Directors 2014-2015

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

Jodi Billy
612-875-8084
Jodibilly@comcast.net

Scott Brand
320-251-1480 or
320-290-9188
scottbrand66@hotmail.com

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

Sharon Herwig
218-828-4091
CrowWingLARA@gmail.com
Webmaster and Newsletter Editor

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 or
218-764-3312
gmikes130@msn.com

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

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