



Ripples

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

September 2016

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Aquatic Invaders Summit II

Registration Now Open—Plan to Attend October 5-6, 2016

This two-day event will build on the success of the first Aquatic Invaders Summit held in January 2015.

You will:

- Hear about innovative and collaborative local Minnesota AIS Prevention Programs and how local units of government are utilizing their County AIS Aid.
- Explore new ways to use technology, including Smartphones, to fight AIS; educational programs for youth; and new approaches for behavior change in adopting AIS prevention practices.
- Learn about the ecological, economic, and social impacts of AIS.

- Have opportunities to network with others in your region to build partnerships for success.
- Hear about successes, new approaches, and research on aquatic invasive plant and animal management in infested lakes and rivers—including Starry Stonewort, Minnesota's newest invader.
- Understand the value of partnerships and importance of building local capacity across constituencies for successful AIS prevention efforts.
- Address ways to close the pathways of AIS introduction and reduce the risk of infestation.
- Explore issues around rapid response to new infestations and effective inspection and decontamination programs.
- Learn why and how the business, resort, and sporting communities can be effective partners in stopping the spread of AIS.
- AND MORE!

Who Should Attend: Minnesota local units of government and their partners, lake associations, lake service providers, angling and sporting groups, tourism interests, resorts and business organizations—anyone concerned about preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) in Minnesota's lakes and rivers.

Registration Now Open. For details on the Summit see: <http://aisummit.mnlakesandrivers.org/>

President's Message

By Phil Hunsicker

Attending a Meeting Doesn't Have to be Torture – Part 2

"I'd rather be enjoying my lake instead of talking about it." Remember when I wrote that commonly heard excuse in last year's LARA newsletter after dismal attendance at our annual meeting? Well, another annual meeting has occurred and there were, once again, a lot of empty seats in the room.

Sure, it was a beautiful summer evening and a perfect night to be on the lake. But it was also a great meeting and a perfect night to be with others who care about our lakes as much as we do. How often do we get the opportunity to be in the same room with other lake lovers from around the county and talk about what we can do together to preserve our rich lake heritage? Not often enough. And one annual meeting per year is certainly not too much to ask. Or so we thought.

The handful of folks who attended this year's LARA annual meeting on August 17th got to hear about the great work Arlene Jones is doing at her Farm on St. Mathias. She is one of those people whose passion for her farm and her community becomes evident the second she starts speaking. She sees the bigger picture that eludes most of us. Attendees also got to hear a list of 14 things that LARA accomplished over the past year. This included our 13th year of partnering with other organizations on the Lake-Friendly Development Awards, and providing comments on the proposed ATV trail through the Mississippi Northwoods Protection Area and the county's 2016 AIS Prevention Plan. Attendees also heard about a new partnership being formed between LARA, Central Lakes College (CLC) and Gallaudet

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Reminder - 2017 CWEPA Fund Grant

By Ann Beaver

It's not too late to apply for the CWEPA Fund grant for your 2017 project. Check out the grant guidelines on the LARA web site. If your association has a project that qualifies, download the application from the web site and mail it in by September 30. There is approximately \$3,000 available to be used as matching funds for qualifying projects.

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.



Learn How to Put Your Cabin or Lake Home in a TRUST or LLC!

Jeff Forester, Executive Director MLR

If your lake place is the center of your family, the gathering place, the spot where friends and extended family gather to create life-long memories, then you cannot afford to miss this seminar. Our places are heirlooms, not assets. But moving a place from one generation to the next can be difficult. Recent changes to the Minnesota gift tax will require further planning. Now you and your heirs can establish a future for the family place that has been so important.

Find Out What Can Happen Without a Cabin Trust or Cabin LLC...

- Disputes arise over who should pay the taxes, insurance and maintenance
- Interests pass to unintended heirs
- Interests in the cabin may go through multiple probates
- Unexpected loss of step-up in basis
- Disputes over who gets to use the property and when they get to use it
- Too many common owners with too many different interests and financial situations to be workable

Find Out What Can Happen With a Cabin Trust or Cabin LLC...

- Avoid disputes and bring family together for generations to come
- Reduce estate and gift taxes and avoid multiple probates
- Can be stand-alone or added to your existing will or living trust
- Provide a cash endowment to fund taxes, insurance, maintenance, even a new boat
- Create an orderly schedule of use, rules regarding guests and expense sharing agreements
- Plan for cross purchases between siblings and other heirs

Wednesday, Sept. 7th

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm CST

Register now for the Cabin Trust Webinar

<https://www.anymeeting.com/AccountManager/RegEv.aspx?PIID=EC56D682874C3C>

President's Message

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University in Washington, D.C., which is a school for the deaf and hearing-impaired. And connected to that partnership, Kent Montgomery from CLC received this year's Water Warrior Award. Kent is using students from both schools to do water sampling around the county and by doing so, he is inspiring the next generation of lake stewards. Kent received the traditional "Ode to a Warrior" poem (you can read it in this issue) along with a beautiful framed photograph taken by Mike Duval.

Those of us who attended the annual meeting thought it was time well-spent. We left feeling a little smarter (always a good thing) and a little more connected (again, always a good thing). In the coming months, the LARA board of directors will discuss this conundrum of lack of attendance at our annual meetings and what can be done to remedy that. Our by-laws state that we are required to do an annual meeting with our members, but in this age of instant communication through digital connections, and with our website (www.crowwinglara.com) and Facebook sites, perhaps an in-person annual meeting isn't needed anymore. If you have any ideas, please share them with us at phunsicker@q.com. We will share with you any brilliant ideas we come up with. And we should have plenty to share because we just attended our annual meeting and came away a little bit smarter.

Ode To A Warrior 2016

By: Phil Hunsicker

Choosing a Water Warrior for 2016,
Was in a word, quick.
Someone on the LARA board nominated this guy,
And the rest of us said, "We all agree. That's our pick."
He knows all about fresh water.
And he's an expert on birds and trees, too.
He's a pretty smart guy most of the time,
But tonight, receiving this award, he hasn't a clue.
He is at his core a thoughtful conservationist,
In the mold of Sigurd Olson, Aldo Leopold, and John Muir.
For all of them it isn't about the money or the fame.
No, their calling to the natural world is for reasons more pure.
It's about making a difference in the world,
With light and adventure in your eyes.
It's understanding that every cog and wheel is important,
When man tinkers with the land, the water, and the sky.
It's not enough to just understand the sciences.
No, you have to express it to others as only an artist can.
You have to be versatile, well-rounded, and accomplished.
In short, you have to be a Renaissance Man.
Our Renaissance Man is an inspirational teacher,
And he coaches kids to cross-country ski.
He makes maple syrup and strums a mean mandolin,
As long as the song's chords are just G, C, and D.



From left, Kent Montgomery, Phil Hunsicker

His true calling is imparting his knowledge,
In the classroom and on the field trips he takes.
Like an artist he uses his gifts to create and inspire,
The next generation of stewards of our lakes.
He challenges them to see the bigger picture,
And to read what Sigurd, Aldo and John so artistically wrote.
The journey of a lifelong conservationist,
May just start with observations made from a small boat.
I know, like our Water Warrior, we'd prefer to be on the water,
And enjoying these few remaining evenings so summery.
But the good news is we get to spend this evening together,
And honor our deserving Water Warrior, Kent Montgomery.



Fields to Streams: A New Resource for Talking About Water Management

Reprinted from "From Shore To Shore", University of Minnesota Extension,
www.shorelandmanagement.org

How does the conversation go when a landowner asks a natural resources land manager about stream bank slumping, or a drainage ditch repair, or problems with algae blooms? It is rarely a quick conversation. Such problems reflect to some extent how water flows across the whole watershed through fields, streams, and ditches.

How do natural resources land managers explain the way water storage ponds or in-field management impacts a lake, stream or ditch a mile or more away? Now there is a new publication from the U of M Water Resources Center to help landowners and land managers better understand and explain the science and practice of managing water in rural Minnesota. Fields to Streams: Managing Water in Rural Landscapes is packed with graphics and concise, relevant explanations about the water cycle and land management practices that impact it.

Fields to Streams shows land managers how to help reduce the rate of erosion and sediment loss.

The online publication is divided into two PDFs and available for download from University of Minnesota Extension at <http://www.extension.umn.edu/environment/water/publications/>. Part One, "Water Shaping the Landscape," explains the role of Minnesota's geology, changing rainfall, and land management practices in altering the amount and timing of runoff reaching and shaping streams and rivers (62 pages; 6.5 MB PDF). Part Two, "Managing Sediment and Water," describes practices for managing crops, drainage systems, surface runoff, wetlands, impoundments, and stream corridors to reduce peak flows and lessen the amount of streambank, bluff, and ravine erosion (39 pages; 2.3 MB PDF). It concludes with some considerations for collaborating at the local watershed scale to identify problems and develop solutions.

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Fields to Streams

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Fields to Streams draws on research from Minnesota and Iowa. It was developed by a team of authors and contributors from universities, agencies, and the private sector led by the U of M Water Resources Center (WRC) and was funded by a grant from the McKnight Foundation.

Hard copies are being printed and will be available for purchase soon. If you are interested in purchasing copies when they are available or having high resolution files to print yourself, contact Karen Terry at kterry@umn.edu or visit the website <http://www.extension.umn.edu/environment/water/publications/> for the most up-to-date information.



The Watershed Game

Reprinted from *UMN Extension*,
<http://www.extension.umn.edu/environment/water/publications/>

The Watershed Game is an interactive, educational tool that helps individuals understand the connection between land use and water quality. Participants learn how a variety of land uses impact water and natural resources, increase their knowledge of best management practices (BMPs), and learn how their choices can prevent adverse impacts. Participants apply the tools of plans, practices, and policies that help them achieve clean water goals for protection and restoration while providing for community growth.

For more information, visit the [Northland NEMO website](#).



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](#).



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