



## IDA LAKE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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### Greetings from the President, Rob Auel

Wow! Did you see how clear the lake was this summer? Secchi Disk readings of 21 to 23 feet in July! Per our mission statement, the purpose of the Ida Lake Association is to “preserve and protect the serenity, quality, and natural beauty of Lake Ida.” And, to help me better understand this statement, Webster defines “serene” as “bright, clean, and calm!” And along with the bright, clean water are all the wonderful trees surrounding the lake. Together, this truly makes the “natural beauty of Lake Ida.”

Of course, you want to protect your lake. So, get involved! Start by planning to attend the Ida Lake Association’s annual membership meeting on August 22, 9 to 11am, at the Ida Town Hall. The committees will be reporting on action taken this summer to protect the lake and their future plans. There will be a general election for secretary, president, and for directors of all the odd-numbered districts. Note that while all the districts currently have a director, we should acknowledge those who wish to have a break and ask others to step in to volunteer.

Also, join us for dinner at the Corral in Nelson on the same evening, August 22. Social hour starts at 5 pm with dinner at 6pm. We prefer you to pre-register, but you are welcome to come and pay at the door as long as the food supply lasts accordingly. While we have so many volunteers to thank, this will be a special recognition for three different groups. First, we would like to recognize the water clarity testing group. This includes all current and past Lake Ida “secchi disk” and water sample testers with special acknowledgment for Dean Jahnke and his wife, Jan. Dean was instrumental in setting up and coordinating the fantastic system of the various testers around the lake. The second recognition will be to say “thank you” to Gary Gibbons and his wife, Glenna. Gary was one of the original 16 directors who founded this association, stayed on as an active director for all but one year, and contributed dearly in so many ways such as the newsletter, the membership directory, taking care of the insurance, taking care of the Articles of Incorporation, etc. All of this while not living on Lake Ida. Gary has now sold his property on Ida. And, the third recognition could be for the hardest person to replace, Rose Ann Maloney. She has put her heart into this association for the past 11 years as secretary. There she was at the picnic, with her great smile and enthusiasm for this lake and association. Come join us in this great celebration.

Thank you for allowing me to represent the Ida Lake Association for the last 2 years as president. Enjoy the rest of the summer! ...Rob

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

- Our annual meeting is on Saturday, August 22, 9-11am in the Ida Township Hall. Elections for President, Secretary and Directors of odd-numbered districts will be held. Come and help decide how to help keep our lake clear and clean. Directors will be reporting on the what your association has accomplished this summer and we need advice for future projects.

### RECOGNITION DINNER:

- Join your Lake Ida neighbors at the Corral Supper Club in Nelson for good food [chicken and ribs, baked potatoes, coffee ..] and conversation plus a chance to recognize some of our hard working members. August 22 - Social hour at 5, dinner at 6. Cost is \$14 which includes tax and gratuity, beverages are extra. A registration form is included with this newsletter.

### COMING NEXT YEAR .. A NEW IDA LAKE ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY:

- Plans are being made to publish a new Ida Lake Association Directory. It was last issued in 2006, and there have been a lot of changes on our lake since then. Many people have asked for an updated version so they can keep track of and contact their near and far neighbors. The directory will be coming out in the first half of 2010.

#### What can you do?

- First, review your personal information attached to this newsletter. Make corrections to your information and return it for updating to the Ida Lake Association, P.O. Box 175, Garfield, MN 56332-0175.
- Second, in order to offset the cost of this project, we would like to once again sell advertising space in the directory. Are you responsible for advertising, or do you know who is responsible for advertising for any local businesses or other organizations? A full-page ad will cost \$125.00 and a half-page ad will cost \$75.00. Please contact Mike Shaughnessy at 834-2480 or mshaugh@gctel.com with ideas or commitments for advertisements.

#### DID YOU KNOW ...



- ...that Ida Township, which encompasses over one-half of Lake Ida, has a cemetery? The Lake Charley Cemetery was established in 1875, and its first burial was in 1873. It has also been called the Lake Charlie Cemetery, the Oak Hill Cemetery, and the Floding Cemetery. It is located by Lake Charley west(right) of Sunset Strip. Go south on Sunset Strip from County Road 61 toward Arrowwood Resort and County Road 22. What is interesting about this hidden gem is its history, and the fact that it is now again an active place of rest. It was deeded over to Ida Township several years ago. Under the direction of three volunteers, Julie Kirscht, Wayne Odegaard, and Frank Bartlett, the brush and debris have been cleared, and it has been brought back into use. The beautiful wooded cemetery has been surveyed, and there are now forty-six future sites available. A fence has been erected, crosses erected over the unidentified person sites, and two beautiful benches have been added overlooking the plots and the rolling hills. (The benches were donated by your Ida Lake Association.) From the cemetery you can actually see the split between prairie and oak savanna forest. There are nineteen known graves, fourteen which have been identified by name. Two Civil War veterans from the First Minnesota Regiment and an African American who worked for resorts in the area are buried there, along with several other families. Two commemorative stars have been replaced for the two veterans from that war which took place over one hundred thirty years ago. This Fall Joanne Hammargren will be interred at the cemetery, which was last used in 1947 when Andrew Lundgren was interred there. The Douglas County Historical Society was very pleased with the renovation and may now include Lake Charley Cemetery in a historical tour of the area in the future. If you have questions or would like more detailed information, please contact Frank Bartlett at 320-846-4413.

## 4<sup>th</sup> of JULY BOAT PARADE



- What a fantastic day for a parade! There were 46 boats at one count and many spectators on the shore. See the website [www.lakeida.org](http://www.lakeida.org) for more pictures. And over 120 people for watermelon and lemonade at Gehrkes Point afterwards. Next year promises to be even better. The parade will start at the South end of the lake. Apologies for missing you folks this year – it took way too long to go around the entire lake. This was the first year for the Ida Lake Association to try this and we will continue to work on a way to get everyone involved.

## ANOTHER GREAT LAKE IDA PICNIC

- The annual Ida Lake Association picnic was held at Pilgrim Point Camp on Saturday, July 25, 2009 from 1 to 4:30 PM. Over a hundred current and new members and families attended the picnic. Jeff Johnson and family treated us to deliciously breaded and fried pieces of freshly caught Lake Ida bass. The Lake Association provided brats(plain and cheese), hot dogs, chips, drinks and tasty cookies. Much fellowship was enjoyed by all including games and swimming.. Other picnic events this year included the attendance of Emily Siira, from the Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District who provided information about Shoreline Buffers, Rain gardens, etc. State Senator Bill Ingebriksen discussed the Lessard Commission that allocates funds from the newly increased state sales tax to fish and wildlife habitat. More details on his remarks can be found on our website [www.lakeida.org/news.html](http://www.lakeida.org/news.html).

## WHAT DO YOU DO WITH ASHES?

- Disposing of ashes from a fireplace, wood burning stove, or campfire can become a problem. You must not dump them where they could get into the lake. The ashes are high in phosphorous. Ash runoff, even through the lawn, causes weeds to grow in the lake. Pope-Douglas Solid Waste Management says you can put ashes with your regular garbage pick-up. Make sure they are cold so there is no danger of a fire and put them in a bag or container for disposal.

## ZEBRA MUSSELS



- Zebra mussels are small fingernail size, clams first brought to the Great Lakes when ballast water was discharged into the lakes from ocean ships. Discovered in the US in 1988, they have spread throughout the Great Lakes and into many other lakes including our own Lake L' Homme Dieu. It is expected they will soon travel throughout the chain of lakes. Let's try to keep them out of Lake Ida by checking boats and gear before entering the lake for these small clam-like shells.

## BURNING

- As you begin Fall work on your yard, please remember that the Douglas County Ordinance prohibits burning within 100 feet of the ordinary high water level of a general development and recreational development lake. The only exception would be a recreational wood burning campfire with a fire ring less than three feet in diameter, designed to enclose ash for removal. If any amount of burning is done (other than a recreational campfire) a fire permit must be obtained. EPA doesn't allow burning of any garbage including paper and cardboard. Only allowed burning would be vegetative matter such as leaves, brush, and unpainted and unstained wood. Home owners are responsible for smoke control. If you are burning, and the wind changes, and smoke is going to a neighbor's home, you must immediately Stop Burning.

## SHORELINE BUFFERS

- How can we keep Lake Ida clean and clear and not green and ugly? How can we keep run-off from reaching the lake before it is filtered? Grass clippings, wave action, erosion, run-off from shingles, roads, driveways, and large rains, ... all can create problems. There is plenty of natural phosphorus in the vegetative matter in your lawn even if you do not use fertilizer which contains phosphorus. An easy way to make sure that your shoreline remains clean is to implement a shoreline buffer which can filter out the unwanted chemicals found in the natural run-off from your lawn. A buffer is just some plants that will keep the water from running directly into the lake. Flowers, bushes, and tall grasses are all examples of buffers. Even letting a strip of grass grow tall on parts of your shoreline during the fall and early spring can make a big difference. If you have a path to the beach or dock, make it curved instead of straight so the water will not run straight into the lake. The rewards: a clean healthy lake, more birds and wildlife(except geese which love lawns right by the shore), less lawn to mow, and a beautiful lawn. Some resources on the web are: U of MN Shoreland Education Program: [www.extension.umn.edu/shoreland/](http://www.extension.umn.edu/shoreland/) Shoreland Management website: [www.shorelandmanagement.org](http://www.shorelandmanagement.org) Minnesota DNR [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us) and the Initiative Foundation Healthy Lakes and Rivers Partnership Program [www.ifound.org](http://www.ifound.org) Emily Siira at the Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District in Alexandria is also very helpful. Also see our Association website for grants that can help you design and implement a shoreline buffer.