

Ida Lake Association Annual Fall Meeting: The Ida Lake Association Annual Fall General Membership Meeting will be Saturday, August 28, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. Please take the time to come and hear in person what we are doing and to share your ideas for the future.

Lake Ida Directory: The 2010 Lake Ida Directory is ready and will go to press within days, so it will be available for paid members to pick up their copy at the Annual Meeting. We are very excited to have this available at no cost to you, and we ask that you patronize our sponsors who paid over \$3000 in advertising to make this possible.

Ida Lake Association membership: We mail this newsletter to all 600+ property owners on Lake Ida so everyone is informed what is happening on our beautiful lake. Over 400 members have paid the \$25.00 dues already this year, but if you haven't joined yet, please take this time to join now and come to our fall meeting. The \$25.00 each year goes a long way to providing the services and benefits which the Association provides. The membership form is available at our Ida Lake Association web site: <http://www.lakeida.org/Duesform.pdf>

How do we spend your Association dues? In 2009 \$12.25 of your \$25.00 was spent spraying for Army Worms, and another \$5.75 was spent stocking walleyes which comes to 72% of your dues. Here is more detail about our total expenses for last year.

<u>Expenses</u>	<u>2009</u>
Army Worm spraying	\$9,624
Walleye stocking	\$4,500
Newsletters	\$1,291
Memberships in other Associations	\$1,000
Annual picnic	\$681
Insurance	\$423
Water quality lab testing	\$408
Shirts for water quality testers	\$319
Maintenance of Lake Charley Cemetery	\$197
Ditch work for lake quality	\$180
ILA website	\$180
total top 11 expenses	\$18,803
other miscellaneous	\$859
	\$19,662

What do we do? In addition to funding projects, the officers, directors, and project teams spend hundreds, if not thousands, of volunteer hours each year attending meetings, researching and distributing information, meeting with lake home owners, and getting their hands dirty working on projects. We would love to have your help on any of these tasks, or possibly working on a new idea of your own. Please contact your District Director or come to our fall meeting to discuss your thoughts. The following is a brief list of our activities so far this year:

1. **Army Worms (Forest Tent Caterpillars) Spraying:** We sprayed most districts on May 20th this year, just in time for the cyclical invasion. We did have a few additional requests for spraying, but it was too late. Please contact your District Director if your district was not included this year, and you did have worms. The spray is recommended by the DNR, and is soap based and not supposed to be harmful to the environment.

2. **Walleye stocking:** The Association coordinates with the DNR which stocked Walleye fry this spring and are planning to stock approximately 30,000 fingerlings this fall. The Association also

receives contributions from the Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce and the Leaf Valley Sportsmen Club, so we will be doing additional stocking of approximately 10,000 additional fingerlings this fall.

3. Invasive Species: Association volunteers work with the Douglas County Lake Association and the DNR to monitor, communicate, and control invasive species such as Zebra Mussels, Milfoil, Curly-leaf pond weed, and Buckthorn. We have received grants and contributed to other projects to help inform and control Zebra Mussels. A small team of owners have spent many hours specifically controlling Curly-leaf pond weed. What can you do? Please report any evidence of these problems to your District Director, and make sure that you are complying with precautions and regulations to stop their spread.

4. Water quality: A team of Ida Lake Association volunteers take quality readings (Secchi disk readings) throughout the season and report to the Minnesota DNR so we can track our progress. The Association coordinates with the Water and Soil Conservation District to work on projects to improve the quality of Lake Ida. We have received grants to work with local farm owners to decrease runoff, and several lake owners are involved with Lakescaping (Lakeshore restoration.)

5. No Wake Area: At the request of several home owners, an Association volunteer coordinated with the DNR to post a No Wake Area at the entrance to Schwab's (Erickson's) Bay.

6. Boat Parade: For the second year, volunteers have organized a boat parade for the 4th of July. Fifty + highly decorated water craft paraded around the south half of Lake Ida this year and ended up at Pilgrim Point for refreshments and prizes. What a wonderful opportunity to meet your lake neighbors, and it was spectacular entertainment for those of us on shore.

7. Lake Ida picnic: The 5th annual Lake Ida picnic was held on Saturday, July 17th at Pilgrim Point and sixty-eight members and their families attended. Besides the great brats and hotdogs for lunch, we had a wonderful social get together with our lake neighbors. In addition, Emily Siira of the Douglas County Water and Soil Conservation District gave a lakescaping presentation and answered questions in general. Our own Jeff Johnson gave a demonstration on filleting bass to enhance their flavor.

8. And we can do even more if:

- Every one joins the Ida Lake Association (the \$25.00 annual dues finance our projects)
- Everyone attends our two annual general membership meetings
- Everyone volunteers for a project that interests them to make our great lake even better.

New District Directors: Several individuals have volunteered to be new District co-Directors.

Thank you and welcome to the team:

DuWayne Emerson	Co-Director District 10
George Marthaler	Co-Director District 13
Dan Peterson	Co-Director District 15
John Dahl	Co-Director District 16

We are always in need of District leadership and special project volunteers, so please contact your District Director to volunteer to help for your favorite area of interest.

Burning Regulations: It is illegal to burn within 100 feet of the ordinary high water level of the lake, except for recreational campfires. Campfires do not require a permit but need to be no more than three feet in diameter and three feet tall. Any other burning does require a permit, but county burning restrictions may still be in place. See the DNR Burning Permits Information website: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/questions.html>

Noisy Neighbor Complaint: Earlier this year a complaint was received from a lake home owner about a neighbor who was renting out his property to weekenders, whom were partying loud and late, and basically disturbing the peace for others. A volunteer from the Ida lake Association contacted Douglas County to find out what the regulations were, and how the resident should deal with the issue.

Currently there are no county regulations about rental properties on the area lakes. The law that had existed previously was literally removed from the books because Douglas County actually lost a law suit by a resident about this issue. The only reference to the issue is a definition that defines a "Dwelling Unit" as "Any structure or portion of a structure, or other shelter designed as short or long term living quarters for one or more persons, including rental or timeshare accommodations such as a motel, hotel, and resort rooms and cabins."

So it is not illegal **according to Douglas County** to rent out a lake shore residence, but it still is illegal to disturb the peace. If you have an occurrence as such, please do discuss it with the owner, but the actual incident needs to be reported to the Douglas County Sheriff.

On Sunday, August 8, 2010 an article appeared in the Minneapolis Star Tribune, outlining some of the issues concerning rental of lake cabins. There is also a Minnesota Vacation Home Rental Task Force Report and Recommendations, dated January, 2009 available at www.tinyurl.com/rentalmn.

Owners who are renting their property should read this report to be sure that they are in compliance with regulations or possibly proposed regulations. Neighbors of such properties may also want to be aware of both sides of this complex issue.

The Ida Lake Association will continue to monitor this issue and communicate to its members.

IF YOU ARE LUCKY ENOUGH TO BE AT THE LAKE, YOU ARE LUCKY ENOUGH.

Please send suggestions or comments about this newsletter to: newsletter@lakeida.org