



IDA LAKE ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

May 2011

Website: www.lakeida.org

Email: webmaster@lakeida.org

Ida Township website:

www.idatownship.com

Welcome from your President:

• Spring is coming, at last. The ice is out, the grass is green, and boats can be seen on Lake Ida. Your Board of Directors have been working hard this winter to keep our lake clean and especially to keep the zebra mussels away. Come to our Spring meeting on Saturday, May 28th to learn the latest details and to help us plan a great summer for you and your neighbors on Lake Ida.
--Dian Lopez

Annual Spring Membership Meeting:

• The Ida Lake Association Spring Meeting will be held Saturday, May 28th, at 9:00am at the Ida Township hall. Our Membership was 431 last year, and this is the highest it has been in almost eight years (only about 200 new members to go.) This is a perfect opportunity to greet friends and neighbors on the lake and to find out firsthand what is going on in our lake community. There will also be information and the ability to take orders for Lake Ida hats, t-shirts, sweatshirts, and other items.

Upcoming Events:

• The 4th of July Boat Parade was a very popular lake activity last year, and we had over 40 colorful, and action-packed water craft. This year the parade will be on the north end of the lake. More details will be coming later this summer.

• The annual picnic which we have had for the past four years has been canceled for 2011. Unfortunately, not enough folks participated to justify the expense. Should we do something else?

Annual dues and Lake Ida Directory:

• If you haven't taken the time to send in your annual \$25 dues yet, please bring your payment to the meeting or send it in so we can continue to afford projects to improve our lake and property investments. (Your dues status is included on the 2nd line on the mailing label of this newsletter.) Membership forms are available at the Ida Lake Association web site, www.lakeida.org or on the last page of this newsletter.

• Also, if you didn't receive the 2010 Lake Ida Directory (current paid members only), please let us know at the meeting or contact your District Director. The directory is just one of many benefits of belonging to ILA. Also remember to support our advertisers for the directory, as they sponsored the entire cost.

• Last year we spent \$9,600.00 (\$22.27 per lot) on army worm (forest tent caterpillar) spraying to deter the leaf eating and tree damaging critters. As you can see, we spent almost 90% of your dues on just this one project. Additional voluntary contributions are always welcome to help with these expensive, special projects (more on army worms later.)

Fishing Update:

• The DNR has posted several areas on the lake as closed for fishing to protect fish spawning from April 13th through June 1st:

- The western area in Schwab's (Erickson's) Bay
- The "meat hole" reedy area off the west side of Christopherson's Bay.

• The DNR stocked 30,000 fingerling walleye in Lake Ida in late October, 2010. In addition our Ida Lake Association also stocked an additional 6,500 walleye fingerlings at that time. The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce sponsored \$2000 of the additional cost with the Alex Hotel Hospitality tax. For more information about the DNR walleye stocking program, see the May-June, 2011, issue of *the Minnesota Conservation Volunteer* magazine. (Also available on line at: www.mndnr.gov/magazine.)

Volunteer Release Recommendation:

- The Ida Lake Association board is recommending a voluntary limit on walleye fishing. Please "catch and release" all walleyes that are 15" or smaller in order to help improve fishing for the future. At the same time, we also recommend that everyone try to catch and eat bass. It is generally believed that bass are overpopulated and that is having a negative effect upon the walleye population. According to many fisherman, bass are even more fun to catch and taste great, too.

Shoreline Restoration:

- Several homes around Lake Ida have stepped forward and are participating with the Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District to improve the lakeshore on their property and to help prevent erosion with the use of native plantings. There are grants available with the Clean Water Legacy Fund which will pay up to 75% of the cost for approved projects. Emily Siira with the Douglas SWCD is a great source of information, and she can be contacted at 320-763-3191.

Please don't mow too close:

- There are several areas on the lake where authorized drainage ditches do drain into the lake. Please do not mow too close or too short near these natural plant-life areas. The canary grass planted there provides a filtering action to minimize chemicals and excessive nutrients that are negative for our lake.

Zebra Mussels:

- The Ida Lake Association has received a grant of \$1000 to help pay for boat inspections at the southeast boat launch off of Sunset Strip. We participated last year with minimal results, but we are tweaking the days and hours this year to better match events, days, and dates of frequent use of the landing. In addition, we are donating \$1000 to the Douglas County Lake Association to help monitor infected lakes. Prevention of zebra mussel and other invasive pests is a lot less expensive than curing the problems later.

Army Worms (Forest Tent Caterpillars):

- We will be spraying select areas around Lake Ida which had severe army worm infestations last year. In district 11 last year you could see the line where the spraying stopped and where thousands of Army worms stripped the leaves of neighboring trees.

" Several insecticides are registered for controlling the forest tent caterpillar including the biological insecticide, *Bacillus thuringiensis var kurstaki* (BTK). The DNR strongly recommends the use of BTK because of its environmental safety. BTK is a natural-occurring bacteria effective against caterpillars that eat treated leaves. BTK has no effect on birds, people, other animals and most insects." - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

- If you are new on the lake or haven't completed the required form for spraying, the form is available on the ILA website www.lakeida.org. If you are not sure, please contact your local District Director.

Burning Restrictions in Effect:

- Effective April 20th, Douglas County is included in the "No Burning" area by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Campfires that are smaller than 3 feet in diameter and 3 feet in height are allowed. Generally, no other fires are permitted without special burning permits. As of the printing of this newsletter, the restriction had not been lifted, but watch the Echo Press for additional updates.

Bow-Wow, Meow:

- Most people like pets and our animal friends on this Earth, but not everyone shares that feeling. Please be respectful of your neighbors, by not allowing cats and dogs to "run wild" off your property, and doing their jobs on neighbors' lawns. Loud barking and nuisance behavior by your pet may be reported to the county sheriff for action.

Suggestions, Comments, or Complaints:

- Suggestions, comments, or complaints are always welcome. Please just email:

newsletter@lakeida.org

Editor, Mike Shaughnessy