



## IDA LAKE ASSOCIATION

### NEWSLETTER May 2013

Website: [www.lakeida.org](http://www.lakeida.org)

Email: [president@lakeida.org](mailto:president@lakeida.org)

#### Welcome from your President

The ice is finally out and summer is on its way! Your directors have been very busy this spring preparing for a wonderful summer on beautiful Lake Ida. Note below some of the many projects that they have accomplished and thank them for all their on-going work. Come and enjoy Lake Ida updates at the Spring meeting on Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. Coffee, cookies and conversation - plus a speaker.

Have a relaxing and fun-filled summer,  
--Dian Lopez

#### Spring 2013 General Meeting

The spring meeting will be Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00am at the Ida Township Hall. Steve Henry of Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District will speak about Shoreline Restoration and Ditch 23, which drains into Lake Ida on the southwest end of the lake.

Previous to this meeting, the major issue discussed at the ILA directors' meeting on April 27<sup>th</sup> was Lake Ida water clarity and quality. The water clarity of Lake Ida has decreased over the last 16 years as measured with Secchi disk readings. Secchi readings averaged 14 feet from 2000 through 2009. Secchi readings for the past 3 years averaged 10.7 feet. Last year, the reading outside of Ditch 23 was 7.5 feet. This should really concern all ILA members and other Lake Ida property owners because in 2003 we each paid \$8,400 per lot, for a total of \$11,039,000, to connect to the ALASD sewer system. Our goal then was to protect our lake by preventing our own sewage from draining into the lake, but now

there are additional external contributing issues such as ditch 23 with its tiles and run-off, aging of the holding pond, and the increased Garfield sewage input.

#### Membership

Our 2012 Ida Lake Association membership was 439 members, which was the second largest membership ever. Thank you for your participation. Attached is the membership form for 2013. Dues are still \$25.00. If you are one of the 200 Lake Ida owners who receive this newsletter but still haven't joined us, now is the time to do so. Have your voice heard by a group that represents you and takes action. Don't just grumble to yourself – let's fix it.

#### New Directors and Officers

Jeff Johnson was elected Vice President

The following individuals were elected last fall as district directors:

District 2 - Janet Vandendreissche

District 5 - Wayne Orn

District 14 - Greg Nolan

In addition the following individuals have recently volunteered to serve as directors:

District 7 – Richard and Suzanne Sudmeier

District 8 - Dorothy Shin

District 9 - Paul Moquist

District 13 - Paul Lombard

Congratulations and thank you for serving. We are still in need of a director for Districts 4 & 10.

#### Boat Parade

The fifth annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Boat Parade will be on the North end of the lake Ida this year, on Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup>. More details will be published in June, but you can start planning for it now.

#### Rules and Regulations

Remember not to burn within 100 feet of the lake and all fires must be within a fire ring of maximum diameter three feet. Also be careful not to damage shoreline vegetation or to tamper with DNR structures in the lake. Stay clear of spawning beds to allow future fish to thrive.

## **Fish Stocking**

Jeff Johnson, our new Ida Lake Association Vice President, is also on the fish stocking committee. Jeff talked to Jim Bosek, who was instrumental in the Operation Walleye project from 1980 through 1982. To get a historical perspective, initially \$30,000 was donated and spent stocking 3,000 Walleyes per year for three years. In 2012, ILA stocked 650 pounds of walleyes averaging 10" and about 6,500 fingerlings. (Some fish were as large as 13"). The larger fish should increase survivability, rapid growth, and a better catch. The DNR also stocked approximately 1670 pounds of fingerlings which is about 16,700 fish. ILA spent \$5000 last year including some dedicated contributions and a donation by the Viking Sportsmen Club.

## **Last Year's Lake Ida Boat Inspection Results**

There were five monitors who inspected 668 boats & trailers in the 4 months of May, June, July, and August at the three public lake accesses on Lake Ida. 418 (62%) were most recently from Lake Ida and 250 (37%) were from other lakes (mostly Alexandria area lakes). Only one boat/trailer had aquatic plants found, but 24 had not removed live well or drain plugs, as required by Minnesota State regulations.

According to the Star Tribune article on August 28, 2012, the DNR reported that of the 12,000 boats inspected state-wide for invasive species, 1,977 (20%) had citations or warnings issued for non-compliance. Violations were for not draining bilge, live well, and/or bait holding tanks and for not removing AIS from boats and trailers. Additionally random roadside checks found violations for 35% of stopped vehicles.

## **Zebra Mussels**

No Zebra Mussels were found in Lake Ida last year, and hopefully the inspections and licensing of service providers for docks and boatlifts will help to keep it that way. However, the DNR has designated Lake Ida as infested waters for precautionary reason, as we are the next downstream lake from Lake Miliona, which is infested.

The most significant preventive action for lake shore property owners is to comply with regulations and to support the inspectors. If you purchase a used boat, lift, dock, or swim raft you are required to leave it set for 21 days before placing it in the lake. Also, if friends or relatives launch their watercraft from your property, please make sure that they inspect, and clean any Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) from their boat and trailer. Also make sure they drain all water holding tanks before entering or leaving Lake Ida.

## **AIS Grants**

This year Ida Township has applied for and received a \$7,750 grant, in partnership with Ida Lake Association, to help pay for monitors for 2013. Six monitors have been hired and have been DNR trained prior to their inspection assignments. Based on last year's results, the schedule of inspections will be adjusted to provide even better coverage of boat launchings and landings this year. Many thanks to Greg Holl for doing the inspection scheduling and to Barb Kilgore for handling payroll.

## **Curly Leaf Pond Weed**

We have received a \$1500 grant to treat a one acre area of Curly Leaf Pond Weed in District One. Thanks to Jerry McClure and Wes Smith for their work on this project (including harvesting the weed by hand the last couple of years). The affected area will be treated with chemicals by PLM Lake and Land Management this year when the water temperature is 50 to 60 degrees.

## **Holding Pond at Cozy Nook**

The holding pond across County 34, near Cozy Nook, has been redesigned for better control of overflow water. A new suspended pipe was installed by Steve Henry, Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District, with volunteer, Joe Taur, on October 6, 2012. Now any water over flow will drain from the middle level of the pond water instead of from the top or bottom of the pond.

## South Ida-Charley Dam

The dam on the Southeast shore of Lake Ida between the lake and the creek to Lake Charley was badly damaged a year ago probably from ice. In addition to one-fourth of the dam being washed away, the boards in the remaining three parts were cracked and leaking. We have been working with the DNR to have the dam repaired. A hydrologist checked out the level of the dam and everything should be okay whenever the DNR gets the new boards put in. Residents by the dam were also very concerned about carp coming into Lake Ida. The ILA will follow up with the DNR until it is repaired.

## Lakescaping

A proactive way to improve water quality of Lake Ida is to Lakescape. There are specific native plants and shrubberies which provide a buffer to filter runoff into lakes. Several property owners on the lake have already done this, and you can learn more by attending the May 25th meeting or checking the ILA website (<http://www.lakeida.org> on "Shoreline Buffer Resources.")

## Seal coating driveways, lawn fertilizing, and harmful substances

Impervious surfaces such as driveways, sidewalks, patios, houses, and other buildings all cause additional runoff into our lake. Some of these are necessities to our lifestyle, but we can do our best to minimize the issue. One way is limit driveway sealing to the absolute minimum. Doing a driveway every year is neat looking, but unnecessary for the driveway itself. A second way to prevent run off and weed growth in the lake is to minimize lawn fertilizing applications each year and to keep the fertilizer far away from the lake. A third way to limit dangerous run off is to be careful not to spill chemicals and petroleum products, and to make sure to recycle those products at the Pope/Douglas Recycling Center at 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave and Jefferson in Alexandria.

## Army Worms (Forest Tent Caterpillars)

Due to liability issues about aerial spraying, it was decided that ILA will not spray for army worms on Lake Ida in the future, but recommends that districts, neighborhoods, or individuals arrange for the spraying of their lots. Anyone who needs forms can contact one or more services and make arrangements for their area. The following companies will spray individual lots or adjacent neighborhoods.

Provider	Contact	Phone
Benson Air Ag* (aerial) approximate cost - \$32/lot (up to 1 acre) adjacent lots best for good coverage	Douglas Jackson	320-843-4300

Creepy Crawlers	Dave Totz	888-852-8040
approximate cost – varies according to how many trees – sprayed from ground		

other ground sprayers are in the phone book

\*Requires permission slip by interested lot owners. Area must be clearly marked, and spraying needs to be done when Army worms are 1/2" or smaller.

## Memorials and Donations

Over the years we have had several memorials requested for Lake Ida owners who have passed away. Recently a \$150 memorial was received for Jim Underberg. There have also been several others in the past. If you or a family member is interested in dedicating a memorial to the Ida Lake Association, contact Jim Peterson, ILA treasurer ([jrpeterson@msn.com](mailto:jrpeterson@msn.com)) If you wish, we will publish the gift in the ILA newsletter. In the same vein, we will be glad to publish the names of Lake Ida owners whom have passed away if the families would like that information communicated to other lake residents. The ILA newsletter is published 3 times each year, in May, June, and August.

## Suggestions, Comments, or Complaints:

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

[newsletter@lakeida.org](mailto:newsletter@lakeida.org)

**Editor, Mike Shaughnessy**