

## **IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS FOR LAKE SHORE OWNERS**

### **DOUGLAS COUNTY LAND AND RESOURCE**

DAVID RUSH--DIRECTOR 320-762-3863

### **DEPARTMENT NATURAL RESOURCES**

DEAN BECK--LAKE MANAGEMENT AND FISHERIES 320-634-4573

LESLIE GEORGE--MILFOIL AND ALL VEGETATION 320-634-4573

MIKE SHELDEN--REGULATION ENFORCEMENT 320-762-1046

### **DOUGLAS COUNTY SHERIFF & WATER PATROL**

WATER SAFETY ENFORCEMENT 320-762-8151

**LaGRAND TOWN HALL** 320-763-7482

## **PLEASE HELP!**

Help us keep our lakeshore ownership list up to date. For property ownership changes, please contact Sue Orpen at [sorpen@charter.net](mailto:sorpen@charter.net) or 762-1708. If you have sold your property or know of anyone new on the lake, please let us know. We need to know this in order to send newsletters and a welcome representative to all new lakeshore owners.

## **LAKESCAPING INFORMATION**

Resources available:

- The book **Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality** by Carol Henderson and the CD ROM **Restore Your Shore**. These were donated to the Douglas County Public Library by the Lake Latoka Property Owner's Association and are there for your use.
- Douglas County Soil and Water at the USDA Service Center, 900 Robert St SW (behind the north McDonalds) 763-3191
- Internet. You can find lots of information by putting *lakescaping* or *DNR lakescaping* in your search engine.

## PLEASE SEND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

So far, we have about 64 of your email addresses. We usually send out 2 or 3 emails a month. To maintain your privacy, we always send the emails out using the Blind Carbon Copy so that your email address is not visible to anyone else. Most of the emails sent out are for **lost and found** items. Another important use is communicating about **Forest Tent Caterpillar** infestation in the spring and early summer. It was a very effective tool this past spring in letting us know about your caterpillars. We, in turn, sent out updates to you on caterpillar growth, numbers, and where we stood on spraying. Other emails are reminders for the annual meeting, boat parade and picnic. It is a great tool for getting information to you quickly. Please email Sue Orpen at [sorpen@charter.net](mailto:sorpen@charter.net) or call her at 762-1708 to get your name added to the email list. Thanks!

## JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> BOAT PARADE

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July boat parade will be a fun filled cruise to show our Latoka patriotic spirit. There will be a special judging and a \$25.00 prizes awarded for the best decorated watercraft. The parade will kick off at 10:30 AM from Munger Bay just south of the I-94 Bridge. We will follow the same counter clockwise route taken in the past. The lead boat, operated by Loren and Kathryn Liesemeyer, is a brown Sea Ray with a LatoKOW (cow cut out) on board.

## *LATOKA FAMILY POTLUCK PICNIC*

Saturday September 12 at the Firemans Lodge has tentatively been reserved for the 2009 family potluck picnic. We look forward to good weather, good turnout, good food, and good fellowship with friends and neighbors. Your volunteer board could use some volunteer help from the association members with the picnic. An hour spent helping with the set up before the picnic or an hour spent helping with the clean up after the picnic would be greatly appreciated. A few extra pair of hands makes the task lighter and more enjoyable for all. Please contact any board member to find out how you can help make the picnic this year a big success.

## DID YOU KNOW

You may operate your PERSONAL WATER CRAFT *only between 9:30 a.m. to 1 hr before sunset?* Please remind everyone of the PWC laws. In 2008 all personal watercrafts are required to display a decal listing the rules and regulations. If you, a family member, or a guest operates a PWC, please read these laws and make sure that everyone understands and obeys them.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT:

I want to thank the Lake Association members who came to the annual meeting in April. Our guest speaker was Al Schmidt from the DNR in Glenwood. His input was very valuable.

Last year was a great year working with the Association Board and all the dedicated volunteers. A special thanks to all of you!

I want to thank Linda Petty for organizing the spraying of the forest tent caterpillars around the lake. This is the worst year we have ever had. The Association spent over \$5,000 on the spraying. We sent a letter out to all the homes that were sprayed and asked those owners for a fee of \$25 in addition to their annual dues. We neglected to include the address where this should be sent. If you are an owner of one of the properties that got sprayed and have not yet remitted your fee, please send it to **LLPOA, Box 102, Alexandria, MN.**

Linda Petty has also volunteered to join the Association as secretary and Jim Lingor will move from being secretary to being treasurer. Linda will also remain in charge of the forest tent caterpillar spraying in the future.

Karen Cook and Sue Orpen gave their notice at the annual meeting that they would not be continuing on the Board. They have served your organization well and will be missed on the Board. Karen will still attend and report on the DCLA meetings. Sue will continue keeping the owners database up to date when homes are sold. Karen and Sue will also be lake greeters for new homeowners on the big lake and Mike Busian will be the greeter on Little Latoka.

Greg Peterson was elected as a new board member at the annual meeting. He will also be the new chair of the Fishing Committee.

Thanks to Kathryn Liesemeyer, Webmaster, and Jim Scott, Newsletter Coordinator, and Jean Weiss and Joan Akkerman for updating the public landing information boxes and to Vern Lorsung and Rich Braun for doing the lake water quality monitoring. We thank all of these people for their past service and for agreeing to continue in their roles for the coming year.

I also want to thank Terry Orpen who has served as Milfoil and Curly Pond Leaf monitor. He has decided to step down and Wayne Siffing will be taking over this role starting this summer. Wayne has worked with Terry on the committee and we appreciate his willingness to lead this effort.

A special thanks to Al Holm for cleaning up the north landing this spring, especially since he no longer lives on the lake!

Your Association is working hard on behalf of all property owners. Our success depends on the membership and participation of all of you. We are proud that we have about 200 out of a possible 275 property owners as members. This is a good percentage, but we would urge the rest of you to join as well. If you would like to join or want more information, please call any of the Board members or send your \$20 membership to **LLPOA, Box 102, Alexandria, MN, 56308.**

I also want to encourage all members become more active by attending our annual meeting and by serving on the Board or as a volunteer in another role. Together we all can make a difference. If you have not visited our website lately, please go to **<http://www.latokaassociation.org/>** to check it out.

Have a great summer on the lake!

Gary Deick



## Walleye Stocking Update

In March of 2009 the Lake Latoka Fishing Committee, with private donations from the Latoka property owners, completed its second supplemental fish stocking of the lake. This was in response to a declining catch rate of walleyes on the lake and a desire by the lake owners and the association to improve the fisheries for all of us. Our stocking efforts put an additional 12,000 walleyes in the lake. The DNR also put approximately 13,000 walleyes in the lake this last fall. The combined total of 25,000 fish is by far the most I could see stocked in recent history. In years past the DNR would stock anywhere from 1,100 to 7,500 fish with years 2007, 2005 and 2003 receiving no stocking. Below is a chart with the resent stocking of the lake.

### Lake Latoka Fish Stocked In The Last Ten Years

*Italic Represents Donation Stocking From Lake Owners*

<b>Year</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Pounds</b>	<b>Source</b>
<b>2009</b>	<b><i>Walleye</i></b>	<b><i>Fingerlings</i></b>	<b><i>12,000</i></b>	<b><i>300</i></b>	<b><i>Lake Owner</i></b>
2008	Walleye	Fingerlings	13,115	310	DNR
<b>2007</b>	<b><i>Walleye</i></b>	<b><i>Yearlings</i></b>	<b><i>1,200</i></b>	<b><i>9 to 12 inch</i></b>	<b><i>Lake Owner</i></b>
			0	0	DNR
2006	Walleye	Fingerlings	3,991	310	DNR
2005			0	0	DNR
2004	Walleye	Adults	154	208	DNR
	Walleye	Fingerlings	1,245	84	DNR
	Walleye	Yearlings	84	28	DNR
2003			0	0	DNR
2002	Walleye	Yearlings	1,106	327	DNR
2001	Walleye	Fingerlings	7,390	270	DNR
	Walleye	Adults	30	15	DNR
2000	Walleye	Adults	192	242	DNR
	Walleye	Yearlings	820	305	DNR

Living on the lake gives us the opportunity to enjoy a quality of life that we all have strived for. One of the ways to enjoy the quality of the lake is to go out after work on a nice summer night or to take out the guests that so many of us have over the summer months to catch a few fish. I personally caught a few of the small stocked walleyes last year, which were released, showing that the supplemental stocking is working to some degree.

The opportunity to get some real bang for our buck came from a fund generated by the Viking Sportsman Club. We are not the only lake association that has concerns with the declining catch rates of walleyes in our lakes. This prompted a group from the Viking Sportsman Club to seek donations for purchasing of additional walleyes for stocking. They set out to match the stocking efforts of the Minnesota DNR on a five-year program with most of the funding donated from the Alexandria Hotels and Hospitality Group. Latoka property owner Chuck Bokinskie, who is part of the group responsible for raising funds, helped with coordination of the stocking and obtaining the necessary DNR permits and approval. They have raised and spent \$42,000.00 for additional stocking on 18 area lakes including Latoka. The program will match any monies raised from a lake association up to \$2,000.00 for their stocking efforts. This is a 50% savings for the lake right off the bat and, coupled with the fact that a private hatchery can raise and supply the fish at a less expensive rate per pound than the DNR, we have a double benefit.

Along with the stocking efforts, the other important key to improvement of the fishery is proper management of all species by those of us who fish the lake. Catching a big walleye can be the thrill of a lifetime. If you already have a big one on the wall, let the one you just caught go. Take a picture of it and release the fish so someone else may have an opportunity to experience the same thrill that you did. Remember not more than one walleye in possession over 20" by state law. We also have a slot limit on the lake for northerns with all fish between 24"-36" having to be released and only one over 36" can be kept.

The Lake Latoka Fishing Committee has also approached the DNR for recommendations of the Crappie fishery. With concerns by the Latoka Fishing Committee in regards to the quality of fish, they have requested an evaluation by the DNR to see if a 10" minimum would be beneficial. The DNR is presently doing a three-year study, with the first year completed and the second year coming this summer. After the study is completed, the DNR will make a recommendation on the proposed 10" minimum. If you are an avid crappie fisherman please don't get greedy! Use this as another way to go out and enjoy the lake without stocking up the freezer and giving out meals to everyone you know. It would be so nice to preserve the population so our children, our guests and we, as lake owners, can enjoy a great time on the lake. Keep a meal, but let the rest go.

Another encouraging note is the lake clarity readings (Secchi Disc). In 2006 a survey was sent out to lake property owners and an overwhelming amount of the responses thought that water quality was important to your property values and enhancing the fisheries.

Rich Braun has been tracking the readings for years now and has supplied me with the readings report for the last twelve years. Typical readings have ranged in between 13.5 to 18 feet. Last year the reading on the big lake came in at an astounding 23.5 feet and this year it was even better at 24 feet. This may be partially due to the fact we didn't have much spring runoff rain, but it should also be a testament to the fact that better practices

by the landowners, such as silt control, protection of the shoreline and fertilizing techniques, are working. Thanks to everyone on the lake for their participation. With all that being said, I'm encouraged with the direction the lake is going. With the continued efforts of the fish-stocking program, your kind donations, responsible fishing practices and water quality improvements we should all enjoy an improved fishery to come. Please send donations for fish stocking to: LLPOA., P.O. Box 102 Alexandria, MN 56308 and earmark the memo area "Fish Stocking".  
Greg Peterson

### **SHORE LAND RESTORATION WORKSHOP**

Karen Terry, from the Minnesota Extension office in Fergus Falls, will conduct a free Shore land Restoration Workshop on Friday, July 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the new Public Works Building on 526 Willow Drive. At this workshop, you can learn how to protect and enhance your shoreline. Property owner's expectations, the benefits of natural shoreline and shoreline regulations will be addressed. She will also discuss simple site designs, plant selections, site preparation, permits and maintenance.

If you are interested please call Emily Siira at Soil and Water. She needs to know how many are coming. Telephone: 763-3191 Extension 3 Participants are responsible for providing their own noon lunch.

There is still a cost share program available for rain gardens and lakescaping projects. Some of these projects are eligible for a 75% cost share. Your contact person is again, Emily, at Soil and Water.

### **LOST EMERGENT VEGETATION**

Residents of this lake who have lived here for many years will tell you that one of the most noticeable changes to our lake has been the disappearance of emerging vegetation such as hard stem bulrushes. Is this loss of emergent vegetation important? Only if you like to fish, watch wildlife and are concerned about shoreline erosion and water quality. Replanting has proven to be very difficult to almost impossible.

Lakes have distinct zones ranging from shore, to water transition (littoral) to open water (limonitic). Littoral, from the shore to a depth of about 15 feet, is the most productive portion of the lake where the majority of aquatic life lives or begins life. This is also the zone most frequently affected by shore land development and surface water recreation. Only 20% of Lakota is in the littoral life-producing zone. It is extremely important to protect and nurture what little emergent vegetation we have left. The south west side of the big lake, Pearson Bay, and the southwest side of the small lake desperately need your help to survive.

## **BURN BARRELS**

Members of the Minnesota Pollution Control Authority were at a recent Douglas County Lakes Association meeting to remind us that the use of burn barrels for anything other than leaves and sticks is illegal and has been illegal for many years. Burning garbage and paper in these barrels releases dioxins into the air, which find their way into our food sources and can be the cause of several illnesses. The MPCA intends to start enforcing this law and indicated that the fine is quite high. If you have any questions regarding the disposal of anything, call Pope-Douglas Recycling Center. If you have too many personal papers to shred, the recycling center has a day when you can bring all these “papers” in and pitch them into their incinerator. They prefer to have you watch the “pitch-in”. They can burn because they burn at a very high temperature, which burn barrels do not. Their website is [www.popedouglasrecycle.com](http://www.popedouglasrecycle.com).

## **CAMPFIRES ON THE BEACH**

Enjoying a campfire on the beach, roasting some hotdogs and making smores for desert are how great family memories are made. However, there are some basic rules that need to be followed when building your campfire. The county ordinance reads: Burning shall be prohibited within 100 feet of the ordinary high water high water mark of a recreational lake. A wood burning campfire less than 3 feet in diameter designed to enclose ash for removal would be exempt from this rule.

The reason behind the rule is to prevent ash from the campfire from washing into the lake. Campfire ash is loaded with phosphorus. One pound of phosphorus can produce up to 500 pounds of nasty green algae. No one wants a lake full of nasty green algae. Failure to follow these guidelines is considered a misdemeanor. The fine could be as much as \$750

## **Forest Tent Caterpillars**

The following is taken verbatim from the USDA Forest Service website and the Minnesota DNR website.

The forest tent caterpillar (FTC), *Malacosoma disstria*, is a native defoliator of a wide variety of hardwood trees and shrubs. These insects feed primarily on basswood and oaks in central Minnesota. Widespread outbreaks of FTC occur at intervals of ten to twenty years and are three to five years in duration. Widespread outbreaks occurred in Minnesota in 1922, 1937, 1952, 1967, 1978, and 1990. Outbreaks commonly begin over large areas simultaneously, primarily the result of weather preceding the outbreak. Population buildups can be triggered by a cool winter followed by a warm spring. Cool springs and warm winters usually accompany a population collapse. During outbreaks, forest tent caterpillars can number from one to four million caterpillars per acre. (Minnesota DNR).

FTC has one generation per year. Caterpillars emerge from over-wintering eggs in the spring when the new leaves are beginning to unfold. Young caterpillars stay together and move about in a single file, following silk trails. They often congregate to rest or molt on silken mats found on the trunk or branches. Five to six weeks after hatching the caterpillars finish feeding and spin cocoons of yellow silk in folded leaves, bark crevices or other sheltered area. In these cocoons, the caterpillars change to pupae. The adult moths emerge about 10 days later. The moths are night fliers and are attracted to lights so many egg masses are often located in well-lit areas. After mating the female moth lays eggs, generally in the upper crown of a host tree. (USDA Forest Service).

Defoliation starts in late May in central Minnesota. During the height of defoliation, insect frass (excrement) becomes a serious nuisance as it rains down from insects feeding in the tree crown. Most trees develop a second set of leaves after attack, but these leaves are noticeably smaller and tend to cluster near the branch tips. Trees rarely die from FTC defoliation alone. FTC defoliation does weaken trees and makes them more susceptible to attack from a variety of other pests. These pests do more damage than the FTC. If trees are suffering from prolonged drought or defoliation due to late spring frosts and FTC defoliation, they are much more vulnerable to attack by other pests. After a year or two of complete defoliation, the large number of caterpillars need more foliage than is available. Starvation typically kills 75-95 percent of the caterpillars. Frost is the only factor that can cause a collapse during the first years of an outbreak.

Many groups of homeowners or lakeshore associations want to preserve the aesthetics of their land. Due to the size of the trees and the acreage involved, spraying must be done by helicopter or airplane. Spraying will only reduce this year's population of caterpillars for sure. Moths from untreated areas will likely fly in and lay eggs on treated trees later this year. So next year's population of caterpillars won't really be affected by control work this year.

The safest insecticide to use is Bt. Bt is a biological insecticide that contains a bacterial preparation of *Bacillus thuringiensis*. Bt kills caterpillars of moths and butterflies when they eat leaves that have been sprayed. Due to its limited toxicities, Bt is the favored insecticide for use near water (lakes, ponds, streams) and homes. (Lake Latoka was sprayed with a Bt product).

Dealing with forest tent caterpillars can be very frustrating! During the first three weeks of June, they can be a downright nuisance. They don't cause a health risk to humans, but the presence of hundreds or thousands of caterpillars can be a real headache. Fortunately, the nuisance associated with FTC outbreaks can be reduced by individual homeowners.

A few suggestions from the DNR include: Brushing them off the house with a broom or hosing them down with water. This should be done daily. You can also spray around the base of your home, but be careful in selecting a pesticide that could get into the lake. We have been suggesting Malathion, however it is questionable whether it should be used if there is any chance it will get into the lake. Dispose of dead caterpillars by burying them or mixing them into the compost pile. If the FTC is in the cocoon stage they should be bagged, burned, or buried, or you can compost the cocoons also.

The most important thing you can do for your trees that have been defoliated is to keep them well watered. Do not fertilize trees or use a weed and feed product on your lawn during an outbreak. Heavy nitrogen fertilization encourages the tree to produce more leaves which may deplete energy reserves and put additional stress on the tree. It is also suggested that because FTC moths are attracted to lights during early July, turning out your yard and exterior lights may reduce egg-laying on your trees and thus reduce next year's population.

For more in depth information you can go to the Minnesota DNR website.

Sources:

USDA Forest Service

Internet: Forest Health Protection

Authors - Steven Katovich, Forest Entomologist

- Jim Hanson, Forest Entomologist

Minnesota Department of Natural resources. 2009. The MN DNR Web Site (online).  
Accessed 2009-6-5 at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/sitetools/copyright.html>