



**P.O. Box 175
Garfield, MN 56332-0175**

IDA LAKE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER May 2010

Website: www.lakeida.org

Email: webmaster@lakeida.org

Ida Township website:
www.idatownship.com

Welcome from your President:

What a wonderful spring – the ice went out early, flowers are blooming and fishing is coming soon. Your Directors have been working hard all winter to keep Lake Ida clean and safe. Come to our Spring meeting to learn what has happened and to offer ideas to make our lake a place we enjoy coming home to. –Dian Lopez

Annual Spring Membership Meeting:

• Our annual spring meeting will be on Saturday, May 29th, from 9 - 11am at the Ida Township Hall. Please come to find out about all the exciting things that are happening on Lake Ida and to provide your input. This is your opportunity to help us all continue to make Lake Ida a great place to be with your family and friends. After all, wouldn't you rather be at the Lake?

Forest Tent Caterpillars (Army Worms) Update:

• Last year we sprayed for Army Worms just in time and had minimal damage in most areas around the lake. Some other nearby areas that were not sprayed were infested with trees stripped and worms everywhere. Army worms are reportedly a cyclical happening, and we are in year two of the 5-7 year cycle. The Ida Lake Association (ILA) Directors have made the decision to spray again this year if there is a reappearance of the caterpillars. Your District Directors will be on the lookout for them, but you can also help by contacting your Director should you observe any.

The same areas as last year will be sprayed again, if needed. If you have any questions, please contact your Director. Your Association will again pay for the service as part of your membership, but it is a huge expense. Please make sure that you renew your membership and pay your dues as soon as possible. If you have not been a member, this is a perfect time to sign up to benefit from this specific service plus all the other benefits of being a member of the Ida Lake Association. If you have multiple lots or multiple dwellings on a lot or in a condo association, an additional contribution to offset the additional cost of this would be most welcome. A membership form is attached and also available at <http://www.lakeida.org/Duesform.pdf>

if you didn't submit a "release of liability" form for Army Worm spraying last year, there is a form on the back page of this newsletter for you to complete now. This will be kept on file for any potential worm spraying.

Annual Ida Lake Association Picnic:

• The annual picnic will be held on Saturday, July 17th from 1 - 4 pm at the Pilgrim Point Church Camp. Besides the grilled brats and dogs, pop, chips, and great fellowship of new and old friends, there will be information presented and available about some of our concerns about the invasive species which continue to try to invade our lake. Please come and join the fun.

No Wake Area for Channel into Schwab's (Erickson's) Bay:

• Glenn VanAmber, Co-Director for District 12, has been working with the owners of the property on and around Schwab's (Erickson's) Bay concerning the erosion that is occurring on the shoreline due to large waves caused by speeding watercraft. Twenty homeowners have signed a petition, which was requested by one of the owners last season, for a "No Wake Area" to be established and for signs to be placed at the channel going in and out of the bay. The issue will be presented to the County Commissioners and DNR for approval and enforcement. If you have never been there, this is an area of the lake that we need to protect for its natural beauty and for the safety of others.

2nd Annual Boat Parade on July 4th

• Due to the tremendous success of the boat parade last year on the north side of the lake, and due to the disappointment from the lack of one on the south side of the lake, there will be two parades this year. This should be great: maybe we can meet in the middle. More details will follow in the June Newsletter, once plans are finalized.

Zebra Mussels and Other Invasive Species

Update:

- The ILA is participating in a campaign to combat the spread of Zebra Mussels. First, the ILA is contributing \$2000 to the Douglas County Lake Association (DCLA) as part of a matching grant from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to help monitor already infected lakes to stop the spread of the little critters. Second, we are contributing \$1500 to the DCLA grant to be used for awareness and education of the public and users of the lakes. Radio advertising and a billboard along I94 near Alex will be used to remind boaters to clean and remove potential sources of infection from their watercraft upon exiting our lakes. We have also been awarded a \$1000 matching grant with the DNR to monitor our lake accesses for the numerous boats entering Lake Ida for the Bass fishing contests this summer. Thanks to Dian Lopez for really driving these efforts.

- In addition to zebra mussels, there are still milfoil, curly-leaf pond weed, and buckthorn trying to invade our lake area. If you see something suspicious, please notify your District Director, and maybe we can help identify the problem and/or suggest some actions. Also don't forget to clean off your and your friends' and relatives' watercraft when entering or exiting the lake.

We have a relatively small area of Curly-leaf Pond Weed which has been discovered in Little Ida Bay. Wes Smith and Jerry McClure, of District 1, and a small team have been raking it up by hand and hauling it out of the lake. It is still early this year, and with the wind and waves and cloudy days recently, they haven't spotted any yet, but if it returns they may need some help working on this.

Websites which may help:

Zebra mussels:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticanimals/zebramussel/index.html>

Milfoil:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticplants/milfoil/index.html>

Curly-leaf pond weed:

<http://www.freshwater.org/index.php/water-quality/163>

Buckthorn:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/woody/buckthorn/index.html>

Water Clarity is Clearly Good News:

- Last season Lake Ida had the 6th highest lake clarity compared to the other 33 lakes in Douglas County participating in the testing. Our Secchi Disk testing averaged 13.5 feet of visibility, indicating very clear water. Our season high was 23.3 feet. The test is conducted in several locations on the lake by lowering

a Secchi disk into the water to a depth where it cannot be seen. Over a dozen volunteers test the water every three weeks and report their findings to the state. Thanks!!

- Our sewer project around the lake has really paid off from our investments several years ago. In addition, a couple of committees are continuing to monitor and work on other projects which still cause runoff: cattle excrement runoff from a pasture drain, Ditch 23 from Garfield, and a pond drain on the northeast side of the lake.

- As part of one of the water quality projects, the ILA is working with Jan Hausmann, a farmer on the northwest side of the lake, to prevent runoff from his cattle yard. ILA is contributing \$1600, along with a grant from the Water and Soil Conservation District, to build a berm between the lake and his cattle area to prevent runoff. In the past there have been occasions when rain and cattle excrement has over flowed into the lake. Thanks to Jan for cooperating on this project and being a good lake neighbor.

Fish Stocking:

- Bill Sandstrom, Director District 5, is working on the plans for potential fish stocking for 2010. The DNR does some stocking of Walleyes based on their results from their electric shocking tests each year. Last year the DNR stocked: Walleye - 688,512 fry weighing 6.0 lbs., 1,266,281 fry weighing 12.8 lbs., and 182,400 fry weighing 1.6 lbs. Based on conversations with the DNR we anticipate that they will again be stocking Lake Ida this fall.

In addition, last year the ILA stocked 650 pounds of Walleye fingerlings costing \$6,500. This added about 12,000 5"-6" walleyes (some 2"-7") to the lake. Our Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce contributed \$2000 to this project, and the Leaf Valley Sportsmen Club also contributed \$1500. It will be interesting to hear the reports of our fishermen as to their Walleye success on this "area lake" this year.

What can you do? Comply with the fishing regulations and limits. Catch and release the fish you aren't going to eat. Please also do try a meal of our delicious smaller Lake Ida Bass, they taste wonderful. Many experts say that eliminating the overabundance of Bass reduces the pressure on our treasured Walleyes.

Ice Fishing:

• On a related note, some of our lake neighbors each year go out on the lake while it is still frozen and clean up debris left by some careless ice fishermen. This year they found three times as much trash left on the ice compared to past years. It doesn't evaporate by itself, so if not cleaned up, it falls into the lake. Reported items were a shovel, a broken fishing rod, casters for a rolling chair, and believe it or not, cat litter with human excrement. Come on people! Lake Ida is not a landfill. Leave nothing behind. Lakers, keep an eye out for these spoilers.

Jet Skis and All Watercraft:

• Jet Skis (Personal Watercraft) and all watercraft operators please obey the law and respect your neighbors by obeying Minnesota watercraft laws. The speed limit is 5mph or less within 150 feet of shore.

This is a safety issue for you and others enjoying the lake. It is also a matter of being a good lake neighbor, as not everyone enjoys the roar/whine of jet skis racing in circles in front of their property. Please remember Minnesota Nice, so we can all enjoy our glorious Minnesota summer. Thank You.

New Lake Owner Directory:

• THE ILA is starting work on a 2010 Lake Ida Association Directory. What a perfect source to remember your neighbor's (4 houses down) last name, to find a telephone number to call when his/her fishing boat flows away, where to get your boat lift fixed, where there is a cash machine, or where to buy some brats and refreshments. All this information will be available in the new

2010 ILA Directory.

We do need to verify and/or update your personal information before publishing a new directory, so there is a label attached to the back page for any changes or additions. Please write any changes to the right of the information printed on the label and send changes as directed. The information in the directory is for the Ida Lake Association and for your Lake Ida neighbors. The list is not sold to other organizations for commercial purposes. Your email address is not printed in the directory.

New District Directors:

• Here are the new "Go To Guys and Gals" if you have additional questions. Be sure to thank them

for taking the time and efforts to do this job with their megabucks salary. Oh yeah, I forgot they are volunteers.

District 1:	Jerry McClure
District 9:	Lucy Cook
District 14:	Cliff Drentell
District 16:	Earle Grenson
Vice President:	Bud Anderson
Secretary:	Barb Kilgore

For a list of all our District Directors, see the ILA website: www.lakeida.org

Reminders of Rules and 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.htm>

It is also illegal to cut most weeds or reeds in the lake with a few exceptions. It is also very irritating to your neighbors when you let the wind blow them across the lake onto their shore. The exceptions are listed in Minnesota Administrative Rules 6280.0250 detailed at:

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/?id=6280.0250>

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Lakescaping (Lakeshore Restoration):

We are talking about 100% "Save the Planet" green here. Congratulations and thank you to the seven lake owners who are in the process of restoring their lakeshore with native plants. The correct native plants prevent lakeshore soil erosion, and their filtering capability prevents pollution and sediment runoff into the lake. Emily Siira is the Douglas County Soil and Water District (SWCD) person who is working with these projects. For more information: <http://www.douglasswcd.com/index.html>

Suggestions, Comments, or Complaints:

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

newsletter@lakeida.org

Editor, Mike Shaughnessy

Ida Lake Association

For our new directory which will be published _____ Date _____
this summer, we need to update your information. Please make any changes or additions needed to the right of the
information printed on the database label below and send to:

Ida Lake Association PO Box 175, Garfield, MN 56332-0175

If you do not have a **Yes** after the worm release [Worm Release (Yes) if received ? **Yes**],
on your label above, please indicate below if you wish to allow worm spraying, if needed.

FOREST TENT CATERPILLAR “ARMY WORM” RELEASE OF LIABILITY

I _____ give my consent to the Ida lake Association to secure the aerial
spraying of my property located at the following address:

_____ for the control of Forest Tent Caterpillars (commonly
known as Army Worms). This consent will remain in effect until I notify the association in writing that
I am withdrawing my consent. In the event that the association must charge for this service, you will
be notified through the newsletter and website.

Owner Signature: _____

Annual dues are \$25, you may send them with your information if you are not up-to-date. Check your
mailing label on the back of this sheet to see your payment status. (form below)

Annual Dues and Fees Statement

Please remit your dues to:

Ida Lake Association
PO Box 175
Garfield, MN 56332-0175

Date _____

First Name(s) _____ Home Phone _____

Last Name(s) _____ Email _____

Mailing Address _ Please fix the label above if incorrect

Lake Address(if different) _____ Lake Phone _____

Annual Dues for \$ 25.00 **Walleye Stocking Donation** _____

Additional Army Worm Spraying Donation _____

Total Check \$ _____

Comments:



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