



## IDA LAKE ASSOCIATION

### NEWSLETTER JUNE 2012

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

#### From your President

- Just a note to point you to all the projects our volunteers are doing this summer – see below. Let us know how we can help keep Lake Ida beautiful.

- We'll see you at the Boat Parade on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July! - see below for details. Have a wonderful summer whether fishing, boating, swimming, or just relaxing by the lake.

--Dian Lopez

#### Our Wonderful Volunteers

- Ida Lake Association is completely run by volunteers. We need your input. How we can improve your lake association? Our volunteers monitor the water for quality and pollution, rake out curly leaf pondweed, work with lake residents (including farmers) to minimize water pollution, stock walleye every year and work with DNR to protect spawning habitats, write grants to help keep zebra mussels out of Lake Ida, publish and send out information to the 726 lake property owners plus other Lake Ida supporters, attend all meetings to work with Ida Township(they have helped bring our sewer around the lake, to pave and chloride roads, to partner with grants for boat inspections, to clean up and beautified Lake Charlie Cemetery, etc.) and the Douglas County Lakes Association(they have done a tremendous job of keeping zebra mussels out of Ida).

- Volunteers also maintain an informative website, put out a Lake Ida Directory of residents, spray for army worms(although not this year), provide welcome kits for new residents, collect dues and pay all bills, plan and keep records of two member meetings each summer plus our

monthly director meetings during the summer, organize the yearly 4<sup>th</sup> of July boat parade, and whatever else they can do to keep Lake Ida clean and beautiful. How are we doing? How can we improve? What else can we do? Please let us know! For instance, should we put out a new Lake Ida Directory next year or should we ...? You can contact the president, Dian Lopez, at [president@lakeida.org](mailto:president@lakeida.org) or go to our website at [www.lakeida.org](http://www.lakeida.org) and click on **Contact Us** for other officers or your own directors, or give us a call.

#### What else can YOU do?

- Most importantly, send in your \$25 dues(Thanks to all of you who have already done so). Your dues support all of the above projects and help keep your organization going( A membership form is attached and your dues status is on the mailing label).

- Attend your Fall and Spring member meetings to learn about what your organization is doing and to voice your ideas on how we can improve. Thank you to the many residents who did so at our meeting last month.

- Let us know if you would like to be a Ida Lake Association Director(See article).

- We often have committees to work on special projects, for instance the Fish Committee last year. Your Association keeps part of County Highway 34 clean and garbage free. There are many small projects you could help with to keep your lake association running smoothly. Just let us know you are interested in helping.

#### Boat Parade

- The 4th annual boat parade will begin at 10:00 am on Wednesday, July 4th on the south end of our lake. For more information, see the invitation on back of this page.

#### Army Worms (Forest Tent Caterpillars)

- The Ida Lake Association did not

sponsor spraying for Army worms this year. According to the Minnesota DNR ([www.startribune.com/a1349](http://www.startribune.com/a1349)), the occurrence of these tree leaf-eating pests is cyclical, but the number of years in the cycle is not known. We have sprayed for the previous 3 years, and the board decided last fall not to spend the approximately \$10,000 to spray this year since we thought the cycle was over.

•We did receive approximately ten emails and calls stating that there were some areas on the lake this year that did have many worms eating trees. Representatives of the ILA board did drive around the lake to determine if any areas had trees that were badly defoliated, but they didn't observe any that were severely damaged. The ILA board will review the information and situation to determine what our course of action should be for Spring, 2013 and you can have a voice in this decision. Attend our Fall membership meeting.

### **Invasive Species Boat Inspectors on duty**

•Five part-time boat inspectors are inspecting boats at several of our boat landings. ILA is working jointly with the Ida Township board to manage the project. Over 700 hours are being dedicated to inspecting boats, mostly paid for by a \$5,500 grant from the Minnesota DNR. The inspectors monitor and educate boaters about AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species), especially Zebra Mussels. Please cooperate and be respectful to these individuals as they help protect our lake.

### **Directors for several districts needed**

•One additional co-director is needed for districts 2, 4, and 15. Two co-directors are needed for district 7. Now is a perfect time to get involved and help make and execute decisions about our lake. Directors meet once a month in summer. You can find your District number on the mailing label of this newsletter. Also, each Fall member meeting, we have an election for directors – this Fall,

you will elect all even-numbered district directors.

### **Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)**

•The following are excerpts from a letter from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture concerning Emerald Ash Borer:

Dear Lake Association Members,

Your effort in communicating how important it is to not spread aquatic invasive species is commendable. The area around your lakes should be equally protected. A tree infested with invasive species is difficult to identify in the early stages. The most recent invasive species is the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) which has killed millions of ash trees since 2002 when it was accidentally introduced into Michigan from China. Minnesota currently has the largest Ash tree population in the United States. Here are a few ways you can protect your trees from invasive species as much as you protect your lake:

Do not bring any unfinished wood product out of the EAB quarantined counties of Hennepin, Ramsey, Houston, and Winona.

Don't move firewood to or from your lake home from long distances. (You typically can't see if firewood is infested or not, so why take the risk?)

If you do need to move firewood a long distance, only buy MDA Certified firewood (look for the logo).

For further information about preventing the spread of invasive forest pest, please visit the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's website at

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us> and at <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/saveourash.aspx>

Please spread the word about this destructive pest!

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

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

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