



IDA LAKE ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER August 2012

Website: www.lakeida.org

From your President

We will see you at our Annual meeting on Saturday, August 25. Lake Ida Association has been busy this summer with the boat parade, lake inspectors, army worms and lake preservation. Come and let us know what you would like to see done to keep our lake clean and beautiful. And join your neighbors for speakers, elections, food, and door prizes!

--Dian Lopez

Fall, 2012, Annual Meeting

Our annual Fall meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 25, 2012 at the Ida Township Hall. This is a great opportunity to meet with your lake neighbors, to hear about what is going on with the association, and most importantly, for you to provide your input on what we are doing. We will have a social half hour starting at 8:30 with goodies and coffee, and there will be door prizes too. Cowing Robards gift certificates will be given to four lucky winners. We also have invited Steve Henry from Douglas County Soil & Water District to speak and a short video on zebra mussels will be presented.

Election of Officers

The offices of Vice President and Treasurer will be voted on at the annual meeting. The nominating committee is currently working on candidates, and additional candidates may also be nominated at the meeting. We are also still in need of a second co-director for districts 2, 4, and 10, and two co-directors for District 7, which is not represented at all.



1st Prize "Team USA"

July 4, 2012, Boat Parade

Thanks to all the participants for a wonderful boat parade this year. There were at least 40 boats --more than we have ever seen (we lost count, so there may have been even more). Being led by Jim and Anita Conn in their 1931 Chris Craft, the "Clairandria", there were many highly decorated boats including the "Team USA" boat and the "Happy Birthday America" boat. Those folks went to a lot of preparation decorating with many different styles of red, white, and blue. We also were serenaded by a ski boat playing "The Thunderer," one of John Phillip Sousa's most patriotic songs. That was a great addition to the parade. (See more photos on our website, www.lakeida.org) After the parade there were watermelon and orange drink refreshments at the Pilgrim Point sandbar for a very large crowd. The winners this year were:

1st Place - The Dorsey family from District 2

2nd Place - Monica Oberle from District 12

3rd Place - Anderson/Willefford families

So get those ideas flowing and let's have another entertaining parade on the Fourth next year.



“Happy Birthday, America”



John Phillip Sousa’s “The Thunder” music

Aquatic Invasive Species(AIS)

There has been a lot of attention given to quite a few different invasive species this year. Boat landing inspections of boats has become widespread. Fines for boaters transporting attached aquatic weeds, bilge water, and live-well water have doubled up to as much as \$1000. Lake Service Providers, who put in and take out our docks and boatlifts, have had to be trained and licensed.

Our Ida Lake Association, in cooperation with Ida Township, has jointly provided inspectors throughout the season at our boat landings using a Minnesota DNR grant. The inspectors have checked boats and

trailers for AIS and provided information to boaters using our lake. We do not have the statistics yet on how many boats have been inspected nor how many, if any, violations have been found, but we will report these as soon as we have that information.

Zebra Mussels

A lot of residents are concerned about the potential zebra mussel threat. Zebra mussels have been found in many area lakes. The above mentioned inspections help prevent the spread of zebra mussels and other invasive pests. Preventive measures are a lot less expensive than curing the problems later. Pictures of the Zebra Mussel are included. If you should find them when removing your docks and boatlifts, please contact the Ida Lake Association (president@lakeida.org) and the Minnesota DNR at 651-259-5100.



Curly Leaf Pond Weed

This noxious weed has been physically removed in infected areas by several resident volunteers for the past 2 years, but it has migrated to nine additional properties. Next Spring that limited area on the northwest of Little Ida Bay, which has been approved by those residents and the DNR, will be chemically treated with funds from a DNR grant. We will have a booklet of photos at the annual meeting to help you identify this AIS.

Army Worms (Forest Tent Caterpillars)

In most areas of the lake, Army Worms were not severe this year, but there were pockets around the lake where they were more prominent. Several residents were very unhappy that we didn't spray this year after having done so for the previous three years.

Spraying for Army Worms has become very controversial for legal reasons. We have, over the past three years, received written approval by most, but not all, owners for spraying. This makes the spraying of only authorized lake lots very difficult to do and has the potential to become a huge legal issue.

Your district directors voted unanimously to no longer provide army worm spraying. Ida Lake Association will continue to provide information so individuals and/or groups of neighbors who agree on treating Army Worms can do so themselves. We are currently having discussions with an insect control company about the possibility of them providing individual property owners or districts with army worm control. An update on this research will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

Shoreline Preservation

The quality of Lake Ida's water is generally above average, as reported in the June, 2011 ILA newsletter. To maintain and improve this precious asset, we need to take measures to help all we can. Burning yard waste near the lake, and unnecessary mowing, fertilizing, and spraying chemicals are detrimental to our lake. Recreational campfires are fun and are allowed, and nice green lawns are also beautiful, but please do consider the alternatives.

Burning Regulations

It is illegal to burn within 100 feet of the ordinary high water level of the lake, except for recreational campfires which 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/>

Shoreline Restoration

Several homes around Lake Ida have stepped forward and are participating, with the Douglas County 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. The Douglas County SWCD is a great source of information, and can be contacted at 320-763-3191.

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

newsletter@lakeida.org

Editor, Mike Shaughnessy