

ILA News



TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE SERENITY, QUALITY, AND NATURAL BEAUTY OF LAKE IDA

2017 Spring Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars now to attend the 2017 Spring Annual Meeting **Saturday, May 27 at 9 a.m.** at the Ida Township Hall. Everyone is encouraged to attend. Directors plan to meet at 8 a.m. Topics for discussion to include an update on Ditch 23, Water Quality, Aquatic Invasive Species, fish stocking and a brief presentation about *Lets Go Fishing*.

We realize this is a family holiday, especially for lake owners, we promise to keep it short and we'll provide the coffee!

We look forward to seeing you at the **Ida Township Hall, located at 4700 County Road 6 NW**. Take stake in your lake – and help keep Lake Ida looking healthy, beautiful...and blue!



President's Note

Spring has sprung and another wonderful summer at the lake is in our sight. I am grateful for the work many members and directors have put forth this last year and hope we can accomplish more to come.

In this newsletter is a summary of the Associations activities since it was founded in 1991. Please review it and then recommit to preserve, protect and enjoy our invaluable lake environment.

Since last fall I am happy to report progress has been made in addressing runoff problems around the lake. A number of issues have been brought to the County and a large grant for evaluating the Ditch 23 problem was obtained. At the May 27 meeting the details will be presented.

Please try to give an hour of your time to the upcoming association meeting. We need your input, time and talents. I hope to see and meet as many of you as possible.

Take care, Dick Sudmeier, President Ida Lake Association

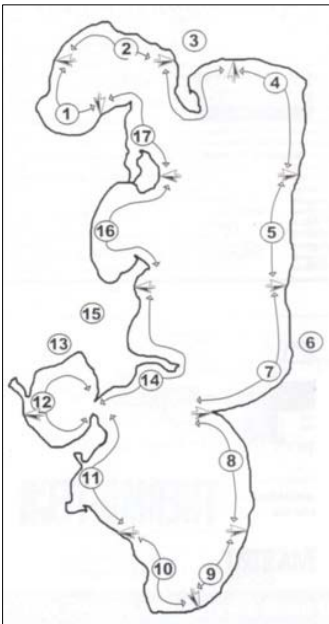
About Us ~ ILA

Ida Lake Association is comprised of 17 districts, consisting of two District Directors for each district, representing and serving the property owners of Lake Ida.

It is important to get to know your neighbors and your District Directors – together we can keep our lake healthy and enjoyable for generations to come.

Mission Statement: "The mission of the Ida Lake Association is to preserve and protect the serenity, quality, and natural beauty of Lake Ida. In addition, it is our purpose to organize and educate all those concerned with Lake Ida including lakeshore owners, area residents, and visitors. We acknowledge our role as caretakers and propose to work as one to accomplish our responsibility to water and the land."

Visit our website to find your Board Members and your District Directors – or better yet, see you at the meeting May 27th!



EDUCATION AND COLLABORATION ACTIVITIES

1 - Invasive Species - ILA was originally formed in 1990 to combat the threat of Eurasian Milfoil. We provide ILA members with information on invasive species identification, prevention, reporting and accessing funds for treatment of affected areas through grants and ILA member contributions. We've also contributed funds to the training and hiring of water access inspectors to educate boaters and work to keep invasive species out of Lake Ida.

2 - ILA is a member of Douglas County Lakes Association (DCLA) and Conservation Minnesota (which lobbies for lake issues) to work on a larger scope with other lake associations.

3 - ILA provides members with information through newsletter items, website links and guest speakers at spring and fall general meetings. (Some past speakers/topics: Pollution Control Agency, Douglas County Soil and Water, Lake Shore Security, DNR, Douglas County Extension Agent, Feedlot Coordinator, Invasive Species, Water Gardens, Minimizing Nutrient Runoff, etc.)

WATER QUALITY PROJECTS

1 - Ditch 23 - Keeping the issue in front of the County Commissioners, DNR, and the Douglas County Drainage and Ag inspector. ILA funded a holding pond (\$5,486) on Ditch 23, and continues to apply for grants to solve ongoing issues. ILA funds our own water quality monitoring on Ditch 23 with inlet and outlet samples collected to test for phosphorus, chlorophyll, and sediment, taken before the wetland, and after. ILA pays for an independent laboratory to evaluate the samples.

2 - Ongoing Sampling, Monitoring and Testing - Phosphorus, chlorophyll and sediment samples are taken in three areas of the lake, including Ditch 23, Little Ida, and near Cozy Nook. (see above - Ditch 23.) Secchi Disc water clarity readings taken 5 times a year in those locations, plus several others. Water quality data is evaluated, and used for decision making on projects.

3 - Contributed to, and worked with Douglas County Soil and Water to make improvements on the pond on the east side of Co. Rd. 34, to construct the pipe so that cleaner water from a deeper pond level flows into Lake Ida near Cozy Nook.

4 - Manure management contribution resulted in project completion near Christopherson's Bay, to temporarily store manure on an impervious surface, preventing nutrients from running into the watershed.

5 - Contributed to grading and water re-direction at Little Ida Beach Road and Betsy Ross Road, to decrease feed lot run-off. This is an ongoing project.

6 - Effected improvements to the lake impact of the Ida Wild East development.



The Ida Lake Association directors pick garbage from the ditches on a 3 mile stretch of County Road 34 from Pilgrim's Point Road to County Road 5 (east side of Lake Ida) as part of the *Adopt a Highway* program. The 'crew' in the fall of 2016.

7 - Worked with the Johnson Farm to put in a riser on the culvert leading to the drainage ditch.

8 - Sanitary Sewer Project - Surveyed lake residents, petitioned to join the ALASD (Alexandria Lakes Area Sewer District), funded grant applications that resulted in significant cost savings, held informational meetings, reviewed the plans, and supported Ida Township in the development of the system.

9 - ILA members monitor watershed development and variance requests and applications, attend township and county meetings, make recommendations and effect changes to protect wetlands, water quality and spawning areas.

10 - Lake Charley Dam and fish gate repairs were completed by DNR after persistent efforts of the ILA. Advocated for No Wake Zone at the entrance to Schwab's Bay.

11 - Facilitate Water Quality Projects available to individual lakeshore owners, such as shoreline restoration, rain gardens, and buffer zones, from Douglas County Soil and Water.

LIVABILITY AND ENJOYMENT

- 1 - Roads: Input at Ida Township meetings concerning dust control, paving, and moving of roads. *Adopt a Highway*, road ditch pickup on Co. Rd. 34 by members of ILA.
- 2 - Fish Committee members monitor DNR fish census activities on the lake, collect donations and arrange for fish stocking, and work to preserve spawning areas for all species.
- 3 - Ida Lake Association collaboratively developed and funded the North Boat Landing area with the Leaf Valley Sportsmen's Club.
- 4 - Contributed funds for a handicapped accessible dock for the South Boat Landing.

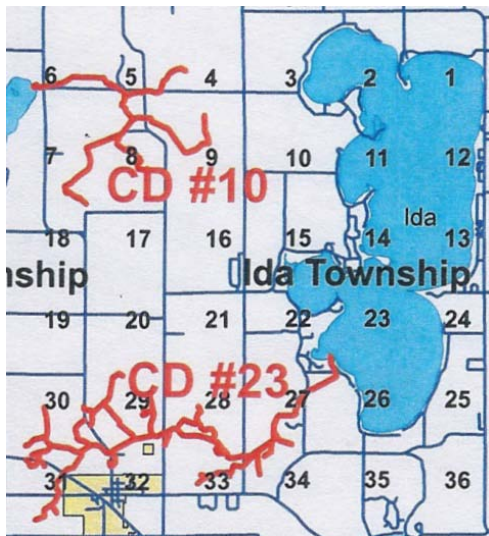
COMMUNICATION WITH MEMBERS AND BUILDING COMMUNITY

- 1 - Two general membership meetings at Ida Township Hall, signs advertising meetings, Publish and update a directory of Lake Ida lakeshore owners.
- 2 - Newsletter, mailed two times a year. Postcard mailings with reminders, and e-mail "blasts" to share time sensitive information with members.
- 3 - Created a "Welcome Kit" available to new Lake Ida homeowners. Developed a "Lake Ida Memories" booklet with early historical photos, stories and information.
- 4 - Created an informational three ring binder for all elected District Directors, with by-laws, etc.
- 5 - Fund a Website with contact information, newsletters, links and other info. - lakeida.org
- 6 - Lake Ida divided into Districts, with local neighbors elected as directors so that districts have representation and a line of communication for their unique concerns.
- 7 - Fourth of July Boat Parade, picnic and other social activities.



Ditch 23

Ditch 23 has caused Lake Ida problems for many years. This ditch, running into southwest Lake Ida, is formed from tiles used to drain farmer's fields and from treated sewage from Garfield. The tiles run into a ditch which runs through DNR land, where it is supposed to be filtered, and then into Lake Ida. Water samples taken before the DNR land and right before it enters Lake Ida show that the DNR land now acts like a dirty sponge which sends the sediment and nutrients along with the ditch water into Lake Ida.



The directors of our association have had a number of meetings with county commissioners and government officials pushing for a solution. Last fall the Douglas County Soil and Water District reapplied for and received a grant to do an engineering and feasibility study of the problem. A request for proposal is going out to area firms for this project. Progress is being made slowly!

Curly Pond Leaf

Curly Leaf pondweed is a non-native invasive submerged aquatic weed found in more than 750 Minnesota lakes. This weed can interfere with recreational uses by producing dense mats at the water's surface and can displace native aquatic plants. Curly Leaf was identified in Lake Ida several years ago, primarily in District 1 and recently in District 2. Our Association has aggressively pursued treatment with sprayed herbicide and is committed to continue treatment until the weed is eradicated. Annual cost of the treatment is about \$1,100 but we have been fortunate

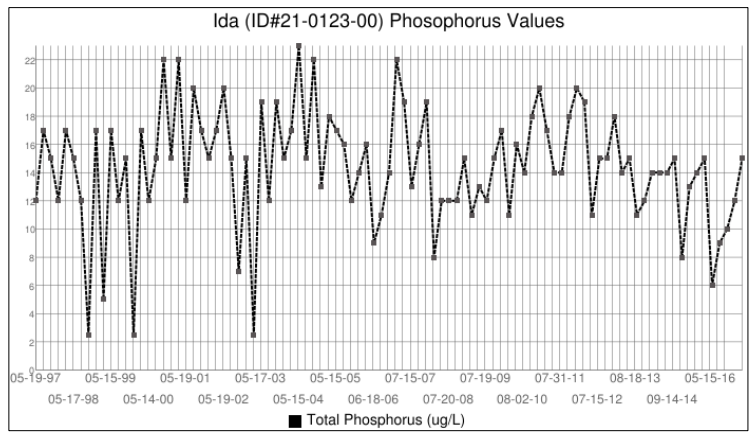
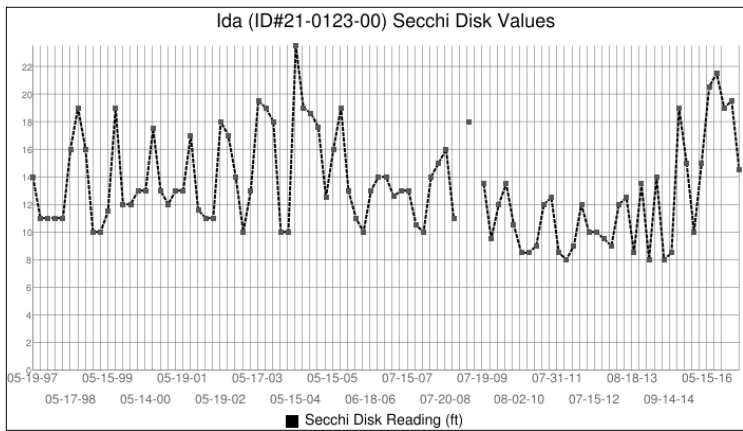
to receive grants to cover the cost.

Protect Our Waters

For many years our volunteer members have been collection water samples from lake and Ditch 23.

These data appear to show downward trends in phosphorus and chlorophyll since 2010; which are good. Phosphorus is the limiting nutrient for the production of algae (chlorophyll). For our type of lake, a phosphorus level of less than 5 µg/L is considered ideal.

Phosphorus levels are influenced mainly by runoff from drainage ditches and the lakeshore. So keep your fire pits away from the



lakeshore as the ashes will negatively affect our lake! Avoid using fertilizer on your lawn!

The Secchi Disk reading measures the water clarity and has been going up. Clearer water is a mixed blessing as it allows weed to grow better and is no doubt due to the Zebra Mussels filtering the lake.

The efforts you have made to reduce shore line drainage by installing buffers and rain gardens along with other practices limiting runoff into the lake appear to be working. Information on these can be found at: www.BlueThumb.org.

Summer Fun!

Alexandria has long since been a great place to live and spend free time. Visit the Alexandria Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce website to see what's happening while you're at the lake: <http://www.alexandriamn.org>.



Join in some fun without ever leaving your lawn chair! The **9th Annual Lake Ida Fourth of July Boat Parade** will take place Monday, July 4 (more information to come). Watch from shore, or decorate your boat and fall in line. Make sure you are a part of the tradition and fun celebrating at the lake!

Lake Ida will be a part of the **3rd Annual Big Ole SUP-athon** is a Stand Up Paddleboarding event, designed to

strengthen the connection between the people and the lakes of West-Central Minnesota while raising funds for local 501(c) charities. The Big Ole SUP-athon offers courses of 2, 6, 10 and 26 miles to be enjoyed by paddlers of all skill levels. On Friday, July 14th the 26 mile Big Ole SUP-athon, begins at 7 a.m. at the East Lake Miliona Public Access and spans 13 lakes, including the length of Lake Ida, and ends at the Lake Victoria Public Access. Watch and cheer the procession of paddleboarders on the waters of Lake Ida. If you wish to paddle go to: big.ole.supathon@gmail.com. Also, we have been asked to provide some volunteers with pontoon boats to assist during their Lake Ida crossing. Details at the May meeting.



Stocking ~ Donate to the Cause

When done well, stocking can work wonders. Hundreds of Minnesota walleye lakes would today offer little or no walleye fishing were it not for regular stocking. Lake Ida was stocked with 700 pounds of fingerlings this past year half in the fall and half in the spring at the two public boat landings on the east side of the lake. The 700 pounds represents about 9,000 walleyes at an average length of 8" which have a very good survival rate. Let's help Lake Ida benefit from our donations!

Annual Due\$

As a property owner on Lake Ida (757 of you!) you have a major interest in the well-being of your lake. The property values are directly affected by the water quality. The Ida Lake Association has a vested interest in helping keep our lake clean and healthy. It is important as a resident on Lake Ida that you are a financial supporter of the Ida Lake Association. With the invasion of zebra mussels, curly pondweed and Eurasian milfoil it takes effort and dollars to maintain good water quality.

Please make a commitment to support water quality and protect your property values by joining the Ida Lake Association. The annual membership is only \$25! Attend the Annual Meeting May 27th or remit with the form included in this newsletter. Remember... This is your Lake Ida!



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
www.ProtectYourWaters.net

waters are threatened by aquatic invasive species.

Your lake association dues at work – ILA has committed funds to increase personnel hours for inspectors at our Lake Ida landings. The Minnesota DNR's goal is to prevent the spread of invasive species within Minnesota through boater education, watercraft inspections and watercraft decontaminations at public water access.

- Inspectors can visually and tactilely inspect water-related equipment including the removal, drainage, decontamination or treatment of water-related equipment to prevent the transportation of aquatic invasive species.
- Inspectors can prohibit the launching or operation of water-related equipment if a person refuses to allow an inspection, or doesn't remove water or aquatic invasive species.
- Inspectors can require a watercraft to be decontaminated prior to launching into Minnesota waters.

The DNR offers a short “Clean In Clean Out” training. The class is free and easy to take either online or with a paper home-study. Anyone interested in learning more about how to protect Minnesota waters from invasive species can also take the free online class. The “Clean In Clean Out” training is available at www.mndnr.gov/CICOtraining.

Boaters and anglers can comply with Minnesota's invasive species laws by remembering **Clean, Drain, Dispose**:

- **Clean** aquatic plants and prohibited invasive species from watercraft,
- **Drain** lake or river water from all equipment and keep drain plugs out during transport, and
- **Dispose** of unwanted bait in the trash, not in the water.

Lake property owners are reminded that docks and lifts must be cleaned and allowed to dry for at least 21 days before moving them to another body of water.

More information about aquatic invasive species and how to prevent their spread is at www.mndnr.gov/ais. Help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS). Let's make it our goal too!

AIS ~ Aquatic Invasive Species

Everyone has heard of aquatic invasive species (AIS), but not everyone realizes what they can – and must – do to follow the law. We need everyone who enjoys Minnesota's vast water resources to get on board and help stop the spread of AIS. It is illegal to transport any aquatic plants, zebra mussels, New Zealand mudsnails or other prohibited invasive species, or to launch a boat or trailer with these species attached. Minnesota



CLEAN



DRAIN



DISPOSE

Memorials

In addition to the annual dues member contributed, we received several memorial donations since those posted last May, primarily for loved ones who have departed.

In Memory of:

- Sam & Denny Triplet from Edward & Eileen Kohn
- Bruce Sundberg from Mike & Terri Steidl
- Sasha Seine from Joe & Pam Riley
- Our son Josh Schultz from Greg & Wendy Schultz
- Augie & Edith Lorsung from Darrell Lorsung
- Norm Gillette Jr. from Don & Norma Vinger
- Tim Bruflat from Rod & Barb Bruflat
- Elaine A Taubert Janell Sundberg's Mom from Mike & Terri Steidl
- Don Mattson from Margaret Mattson
- Don Carlson from Dave & Georgia Carlson
- Tish Drenttel from Cliff & Margaret Drenttel



Become a 2017 dues paying member!

Ida Lake Association Annual Dues and Fees Statement

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

First Name(s): _____ Last Name(s): _____

Lake Address: _____ Lake Phone: _____

Preferred Mailing Address (if different): _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Other Phone: _____

E-mail (list any and all e-mail addresses you wish to be used for ILA business only): _____

Annual Dues: \$25.00

Memorial: \$ _____ for: _____

Walleye Stocking: \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Comments:

Remit payment to:
Ida Lake Association
P.O. Box 175
Garfield, MN 56332-0175

Return Postage Guaranteed

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

