



the mission bell

Newsletter of the Mission Lakes Association
July 2015

LAKE LIVING: WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

As a farm girl growing up in southwestern Minnesota, fishing consisted of standing on shore with a cane pole, catching small fish, usually bullheads. Fishing trips to northern Minnesota were not on the radar. Of course, living at the lake, even spending week-ends there, was not an option in those days for many folks in rural areas.

I have fond memories of those days fishing from the banks of the Des Moines river, fish fries with aunts, uncles, cousins. Most of the work was done by my parents, baiting hooks, untangling lines, cleaning and frying the fish, so my memories are of fun. I haven't caught a lot of fish as an adult, though I try, but I enjoy memories of boating, fishing, baiting hooks for grandchildren, frying fish for the family.

Later in life, I was introduced to 'boat fishing' using a rod and reel, living on a lake, eventually buying our property on Mission Lake, clearing land, building our house, and now experiencing life as full time residents in the Northland.

I remember expectations of all the fun we would have now that we owned a portion of the dream of lake living in Minnesota, and it has lived up to those expectations. There has been work involved - clearing land to build a house, bugs, upkeep (same as anywhere), bugs, But along with that, there are the sounds of waves lapping the shore, crickets, frogs, eagles, loons, a virtual orchestra of sounds to lull me to sleep. We've met some great people, found new places to dine, places to shop.

I also enjoy serving you through the Mission Lakes Association, helping out where I can to do what I can to make sure what I love about living here is available to current owners and future generations.

So, what's in it for me? Whatever I decide to put into it, I suppose.

Mission Lakes is a great place for making memories. The saying, "Bloom where you are planted" is a good one - I'm glad to be planted where I am now. In the end, we have memories, and even the not so good ones have morphed into good ones or are forgotten.

Happy memories, everyone!Barb Woese, Editor

WANTED

What is your 'up north' memory - as a child or recently? We would love to publish it in our newsletter. Contact me with your story: Barb Woese, number or email on back page.

Notes from Nick

With this year's sudden proliferation of Aquatic Invasive Species [curly leaf pondweed (CLP) and Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM)] in both lakes, and the future threat of same in future years, it is becoming very difficult to manage all this with only a few active members doing AIS surveillance/mapping, clerical work, grant applying etc. Now more than ever we need time and/or treasure from more members because of the work and expense involved. Please step up and help us maintain our lakes' esthetic values, navigability, and property values!
.....Nick Bernier

TERRESTRIAL INVASIVES

Because our lakes are an important part of our recreation and esthetics, and because the waters in our state and our area are threatened by aquatic invasive species, there is a good amount of time, energy and money allocated to the eradication of AIS by our Lake Association.

There are plants and land species that are invasive as well. Identification and information regarding methods of eradication or control of such species is addressed very well on the state DNR website. [Go to dnr.state.mn.us](http://go.to.dnr.state.mn.us), under Nature click on Invasive Species, Terrestrial for a tutorial and excellent identification of plants, diseases, etc. There are many other topics to explore related to plants and wildlife as well.



Aquatic Invasive Species Update

This year the volume of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), both Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) and Curlyleaf pondweed (CLP), seems to have exploded in our lake as well as in lakes throughout the state. Soon after ice-out we observed that the CLP was rapidly growing and already close to the surface in both lakes. By June there were several large patches of floating CLP in both Upper and Lower Mission. This rapid growth was the result of the lack of snow cover over the ice, allowing the sunshine to reach the plants and start their growth beneath the ice. On the good side, by mid June the CLP starts to die off and sink to the bottom. In April, shortly after ice-out the DNR identified areas for possible treatment. In May a survey by our volunteer locators identified the priority areas for treatment, based upon the expected amount of boat traffic in the area, the problems it may cause for property owners and the treatment cost and finances available. It was decided to treat almost 18 acres of CLP and the treatment was completed on May 14th.

Shortly after the CLP treatment was completed the Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) search began. Between May 22nd and June 26th our volunteer locators marked with GPS units almost 550 waypoints identifying the perimeter of large patches and also marking individual plants. This information was used to provide maps and the information necessary to allow the applicator to provide an accurate bid. After much consideration on our part it was decided to treat 35 acres in Upper Mission and 12 acres in Lower Mission. Treatment for EWM in both Upper and Lower Mission lakes took place on July 10th, under good weather conditions.

Throughout this process it is necessary to handle the chores of applying for grants, permits and requests for reimbursement. This year we expect that our grants and County aid will bring us over \$17,500 to help us cover the \$48,000 we have committed to so far. Our expenses will be much higher than usual, and your support is very important. Our sincere thanks to all of you who have joined and contributed to our efforts to protect our lakes.

...Ron Hedlund



Yes, caught in Lower Mission Lake in June of this year. Del Woese proudly holds the fish caught by Mike Barnes early one Sunday morning. They practiced Catch and Release - he's out there somewhere. Good luck!

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Some of our Board members and volunteers are running on 'Empty'. They have been doing the work of 2 – 3 persons for a long time.

We need you! Please step up and help out with some of the things that make our Association successful in keeping our lakes as clean as possible for recreation. The tasks are easy, just take time, which, if spread between more folks, will give everyone time for recreation.

Any of the Board members, listed on the back, will be able to help you decide how you can be of help.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

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### **If a guest is bringing their boat from another lake**

*Many lakes are infested with zebra mussels, which are hard to detect and hard to remove. If your guest is bringing a boat from another lake, we strongly recommend the following steps.*

**Spray, rinse, dry** — Some invasive species are small and difficult to see at the access. To remove or kill them, take one or more of the following precautions before moving to another waterbody, especially after leaving zebra mussel and spiny waterflea infested waters:

- Spray with high-pressure water
- Rinse with very hot water\*

Dry for at least 5 days

Run motor and personal watercraft for a few seconds to discharge water before leaving a water access.

Transport fish on ice — be prepared, bring a cooler.

\* These water temperatures will kill zebra mussels and some other AIS: 120°F for at least 2 minutes; or 140°F for at least 10 seconds.

...Ron Hedlund

### **BOATING SAFETY:**

A recent news article mentioned the increase in popularity of kayaking in our waters.



While we don't see a lot of canoes, kayaks or sailboats in our lakes, we are certain to see more of them soon.

As a reminder, please keep a lookout for smaller craft, closer to shore when moving to the favorite fishing spots in motor boats.

Also, remember to wear life jackets and have safety equipment onboard - whether on motorized or non-motorized watercraft.

## QUICK AND EASY FISH TACOS

You will need:

- A nice mess of fresh fish, cut into pieces (pat dry)
- Olive oil, lime juice, salt & pepper
- 3/4 c. sour cream or yogurt
- 2 tbsp. chunky salsa
- Shredded cheese
- Chopped onion, cilantro, avocado, juice of lime, (your favorites)
- 1-2 cups shredded cabbage or lettuce
- 10-12 corn or flour tortilla shells, warmed
- -Cut fish into 1" strips, drizzle with olive oil, lime juice & season with salt & pepper. Place on foil lined baking sheet. Broil about 5 minutes, until nicely browned on top and opaque in color (no need to turn the pieces).

-While broiling, blend sour cream and salsa.

Divide broiled fish pieces evenly in tortilla shells, top w/sour cream, add your favorite taco toppings & seasonings, top with shredded cabbage and enjoy! (cabbage goes very well with the fish, but shredded lettuce can be used instead).

Add additional salsa as desired to taste.

## COMING UP

### ANNUAL PICNIC

MISSION PARK

AUGUST 8

See enclosed flyer for details.

**Gryphon Dock Service** volunteered and put in the channel marker buoys, free-of-charge this spring. They do several docks/boat lifts on our lakes, and come highly recommended as timely, reliable, and reasonably priced. They are trained to recognize Aquatic Invasive Species. Please consider using their services for your dock/s and boats.

## DO UNTO OTHERS

The invasion/infestation of Curlyleaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil in Mission Lakes has been a very frustrating, as well as a very expensive experience for us. **Let's not share the experience with other lakes.** If you plan to take your boat to another lake, please follow these rules. **It is the law.**

**1. CLEAN** all visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and other prohibited invasive species from watercraft, trailers, and water-related equipment before leaving any water access or shoreland.

**2. DRAIN** water-related equipment (boat, ballast tanks, portable bait containers, motor) and drain bilge, livewell and baitwell by removing drain plugs before leaving a water access or

shoreline property. **Keep drain plugs out** and water-draining devices open while transporting watercraft.

**3. DISPOSE** of unwanted bait, including minnows, leeches, and worms, in the trash. It is illegal to release live bait into a waterbody or release aquatic animals from one waterbody to another. If you want to keep your live bait, you must refill the bait container with bottled or tap water.

\*Don't forget to take your bucket when you go fishing - throw the plants and debris you catch on your line in it and throw them away on shore.

...Ron Hedlund

## WHAT ARE THOSE GREEN GOBS floating in the lake?

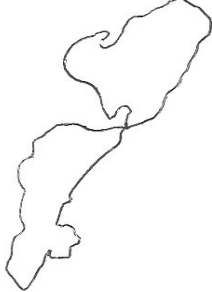
They are **Filamentous Algae**, also referred to as "pond moss" or "pond scum" or "fish snot". These threadlike algae occur in masses of various sizes, usually green in color but may become yellow, grayish or brown, hovering below or at the waters' surface. At the surface they can form dense mats. It begins growing on the bottom and then lifts to the surface as buoyancy grows due to its production of oxygen. A temporary bloom of abundant algae happens very infrequently in our lake and does not warrant control.

.....Ron Hedlund



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



A 501(c)(3) Association -Donations deductible,  
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Road 116, Merrifield, MN 56465



### HAVE YOU SEEN OUR WEBSITE?

[www.missionlakesassociation.org](http://www.missionlakesassociation.org) is home to much information about our lakes and the surrounding areas, history of our Association, as well as current information regarding activities, water quality, etc.

#### MISSION LAKES ASSOCIATION OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2015-2016

##### Officers

\*\*Warren Herold, President.....765-4009  
\*\*Nick Bernier, Vice President.....765-3017     mnarrows@hotmail.com  
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\*Term ends August 2017    \*\*Term ends August 2016

#### Mission Lakes Association Objectives:

- \* To protect & improve the lake's ecology
- \* To control and enhance the lakes' watershed
- \* To educate, environmentally, those using the lake and living within watershed
- \* To provide social fellowship among members and guests
- \* To support the needs of the community