



IDA LAKE ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2011

Website: www.lakeida.org

From your President

• What a wonderful summer! Enjoy the cooler weather this fall as the leaves turn color. Your lake association has been working hard to keep Lake Ida clean and clear despite the abundance of wind and water. Give a big thank you to your directors – they are continually monitoring Lake Ida and making sure it continues to be the paradise we all love.

• We'll see you at the Annual Meeting on August 27th - see below for details. Have a wonderful rest of summer whether fishing, boating, swimming, or just relaxing by the lake.

--Dian Lopez

Ida Lake Association Annual Fall Meeting

• The Ida Lake Association Fall Meeting will be held Saturday, August 27th at 9:00am at the Ida Township town hall. Elections will be held for President, Secretary, and Directors for odd-numbered districts. This is also a perfect opportunity to greet friends and neighbors on the lake and to find out firsthand what is going on in our lake community.

What has your Ida Lake Association been doing?

• Just an update on this summer's events. Your Directors have continued their vigilance against zebra mussels and other aquatic invasive plants and animals. Because of the high water and windstorms this summer, we have paid special attention to water quality. We are talking with a group from the University of Minnesota at Morris to help us monitor waterways coming into our lake making sure they do not add to the problem. We are monitoring Schwab's Bay to prevent erosion and also trying to make sure

that spawning areas are posted to protect fish hatches. We sprayed for army worms this spring with good success. We changed our by-laws to allow more members to join. We recently joined other lakes in a no-wake zone within 300 feet of shore because of high water conditions this summer.

• We sponsored a wonderful boat parade and two general meetings. We distributed three newsletters to keep you informed. Our directors meet every month from May through September to plan activities and projects to keep Lake Ida beautiful. We continually work to address any problems and are appreciative of all the calls and emails from you alerting us to situations that need attention.

Annual Dues

• If you haven't taken the time to send in your annual \$25 dues yet, please bring your payment to the annual meeting or send it in so we can continue to afford projects to improve our lake and property investments. Membership forms are available at the Ida Lake Association web site, www.lakeida.org.

Lake Charley Cemetery

• Back in the August, 2009 issue of our newsletter, we reported on the Lake Charley Cemetery. Some volunteers from the Ida Lake Association have been working with Ida Township to improve this wonderful, historical place. They would like to welcome you to help them form a group called Friends of the Lake Charley Cemetery. The first meeting will be on September 14, 2011 at 12:30 PM at the Ida Township town hall. This will be an informal gathering where everyone will be welcomed, from avid gardeners to someone that just wants to help shovel a little dirt; we all have something to offer. We will probably get together a couple of times this fall and then again in the spring to start whatever project we decide to work on. We are open to lots of ideas and there will also be a need for hardy shrubs and perennials you may be dividing in the spring. If you have questions call Julie at the Ida Township Hall, 320-834-3377 (weekdays – 9-12 noon).

The 4th of July Boat Parade

• The 4th of July Boat Parade this year featured over 50 colorful and action-packed, participating water craft. This year the parade was on the North end of the lake with refreshments served before and after at the sandbar at Pilgrim Point. An additional dozen boats came to the sandbar early to welcome the boats to the finale. First place was a Hawaiian-themed mystery boat (please let us know who you are for the next issue.) Second place went to the Anderson family. Thanks to Nancy and Bud Anderson and Denny Gormley for organizing this fun event again.



No Wake Zone at Entrance to Schwab's (Erickson's) Bay

• The DNR posted the entrance to Schwab's Bay this season with the traditional red and green markers for the deepest and safest passage. It was also posted as a No Wake Area to help prevent shoreline erosion. The problem now is, according to nearby residents, that people don't observe the

No Wake sign and zone and are actually speeding up going through. Fellow Lake Ida residents, you have got to be kidding! Slow down!



Zebra Mussels

• A bigger problem which a lot of residents are concerned about is the Zebra mussel threat. Zebra mussels have been found on most of the chain of lakes. The Ida Lake Association has received a grant of \$1000 to help pay for boat inspections at the SE public landing. We participated last year with minimum results, but we tweaked the days and hours this year to better match events, days, and dates of frequent use of the landing. In addition we are donating \$1000 to the Douglas County Lakes Association to help monitor infected lakes. Prevention of zebra mussels and other invasive pests is a lot less expensive than curing the problems later.

• Our local Alexandria paper, the *Echo Press*, is a good source of information about the issue and potential solutions. There were excellent articles on this on July 22 and 29, 2011. We have also attached an excerpt from Minnesota DNR publications explaining the problem; helping to identify Zebra mussels, and outlining what you and others can do to prevent their spread. It is illegal in Minnesota to transport harmful aquatic species.

Suggestions, Comments, or Complaints:

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

newsletter@lakeida.org

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