

IDA LAKE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

MAY 2004

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Welcome back, "Snowbirds"; to beautiful Lake Ida from your winter get a way. The winter was average with both low temperatures and snowfall. Lucrezia and I stayed home to enjoy the winter season. Activity has been pretty quiet with few controversial issues to deal with. Curt Sax is again heading up the planning for potential spraying for the pesky army worms. As a result of association member contributions and a \$1,500 donation we stocked 10,000 fingerlings into the lake and the DNR added an additional 21,000. Please remember to practice catch and release of the small and large fish as they represent the future of good fishing. It appears that developments around the lake have begun to slow down. The owner of one planned development met with the Board of Directors during the board meeting in April. I hope to see you at the association meeting on Saturday, May 29 9:00AM.

IDA LAKE ASSOCIATION MEETING:

Please plan to attend the association meeting on Saturday, May 29, 9:00AM, Leaf Valley Community Hall. This will be a general information meeting and will give you an opportunity to get up dated on happenings of concern to Lake Ida and Ida Township. Board of Directors will meet at 8:00AM on this date.

LEAD FISHING TACKLE:

Please plan to bring your lead fishing tackle to the meeting on Saturday, May 29. The items will be delivered for proper recycling.

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER:

As a result of hard work and support of many people one of our Ida Lake Association board members, Orin (Clete) Blegen has been elected Ida Township supervisor. A special thanks to all who made the effort to become informed and cast their ballots. Clete will prove to be a valuable addition to the township board.

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Membership dues in the amount of \$20 is payable on an annual basis. **Please check your mailing address label on this newsletter to verify the last year for which your dues have been paid.** Included in the newsletter is an insert for Annual Dues and Fees payment. Please complete this form and mail to the Ida Lake Association, P.O. Box 175, Garfield, MN 56332-0175 or you may bring the form, along with your payment, to the meeting on Saturday, May 29.

PHOSPHORUS! PHOSPHORUS! PHOSPHORUS! PHOSPHORUS!

- Phosphorus is one of the leading causes of lakes and rivers turning green. Under summer weather conditions, one pound of phosphorus can create 300-700 pounds of algae.
- Fertilizers, leaves, grass clippings, eroded soil, animal waste, and ashes from burning all contribute to the build up of phosphorus in our lake.
- Use **ONLY phosphorus free fertilizer, the middle number should be ZERO, must be used. It is a new Minnesota law so please abide.**
- If necessary to kill weeds, particularly near the lake, use products such as Rodeo that is lake friendly and non-toxic to fish. It is available from stores such as Ag Service Country Store. Also, works well in flowerbeds.

MORE ABOUT PHOSPHORUS !!!!

Believe it not a recent study has shown that automatic dishwasher detergents contribute 3% of the phosphorus load into state lakes. Local grocery stores carry one brand, Seventh Generation, while other brands are available from private vendors.

IDA LAKE ASSOCIATION CLOTHING:

Lucrezia Campbell, our association clothing chairperson, will be in attendance during the meeting on Saturday, May 29 with an inventory of wonderful Ida Lake Association clothing items for sale at very reasonable prices.

SMOKEY TIMBERS ON LAKE MILTONA:

The extensive effort to save Smokey Timbers, the Girl Scout facility on Lake Miltona, has been successful and will be spared from being turned into further development. Your association contributed \$1,100 toward this effort

ARMYWORMS ARE PREPARING FOR THEIR ANNUAL INVASION:

These creatures can become unmerciful in their destruction and defoliation of our trees. They are known to hang out around Basswood trees, but can be found almost anywhere. Curt Sax and Rob Auel head up our Army Worm Committee and they need your assistance. It is important that each property owner check their trees for evidence of this pest and report promptly to Curt, Rob, or your respective director or co-director. It is anticipated that aerial spraying will occur near the end May or early June.

A LITTLE HUMOR CONCERNING WATER CLARITY MONITORING:

“Dean Jahnke was busy measuring Lake Ida water quality with the white Secchi disc and an older gentleman walked by and yelled, “Why are you trying to catch fish with a Frisbee?”

MORE CONGRATULATIONS!

Gerald "Jerry" Johnson was recently elected to serve as our District 1 County Commissioner during a special election on January 13, 2004. Jerry resides at 1466 County Rd. 1, SW, Evansville, MN 56326. Phone (320) 834-4876. Voice messages can be left at the Douglas County Court House (320) 762-2980.

NOTES FROM NON-PROFIT EDUCATION FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS (NEMO) PRESENTATION:

The meeting was held on April 16, 2004 and explored the impact of development on the habitat and water quality of the lake ecosystem and ultimately on the **economic, aesthetic, and recreational value** of the lake. As we reach maximum development around the perimeter of our lakes and as the 2nd and 3rd tier of developments continue to expand, the ability to **LOVE OUR LAKES TO DEATH** becomes very real. No one individual will ever be singled out as the cause of the eventual deterioration of a lake. All property owners within a watershed will ultimately be accountable for the final outcome. What this means is that all of us collectively, lakeshore owner and non-lake shore owner alike, have an impact on the health of our lakes. A sobering point is that once a lake degrades beyond a certain point, it is nearly impossible to bring it back to health. We must all take the time to learn how to become good stewards of this precious resource. The future of our lakes is in our hands today. (Taken from the Latoka Lake Association Newsletter, May 2004)

IMPORTANT DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD NOTES:

As reported in the Echo Press December 17, 2003, Bruce Campbell, Ida Lake Association president, received some notoriety as a result of being a spokes person in favor of the Douglas County Board taking action in approving a no-wake ordinance for Pristine Bay on Lake Darling and a no-motor ordinance in Lake Ida's Johnson Bay. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will make the final decision about the ordinances.

IDA LAKE ASSOCIATION WEBSITE:

Remember that we have our very own website, www.lakeida.org. Andy Lopez has been instrumental in the technical aspects of getting the site constructed and on line. The site will continue to expand and offer an opportunity for enhanced communication.

NEW IDA TOWNSHIP HALL:

Bids for the proposed town hall construction will be opened at 3:00PM on Monday, May 17. Bids will be reviewed during a special board meeting on Friday, May 21. It is proposed that construction be completed by September 1, 2004. Location will be at the NW intersection of county roads 6 and 22.

AQUATIC PLANTS AND YOU:

Aquatic plants are an essential part of lake communities and benefit a wide variety of organisms, including you. Although aquatic plants are sometimes a nuisance for lakeshore property owners, it is important to remember that they are critical for a healthy lake environment. Refer to the Minnesota Lakes Association newsletter the "Reporter", April 2004 issue for very important information.

Ida Lake Association
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