

Homeowners' Spring Meeting Saturday May 26th 9 am at Clearwater Forest

Please plan to attend the homeowners' association meeting on May 26th at Clearwater Forest. Once again, DJ has offered to host our meeting in the Dining Hall from 9-11 am.

Meeting Agenda

- Introductions and welcome
- Treasurer's Report
- Eurasian Milfoil Report
- Water Level, Quality & Habitat Report
- Clearwater Forest update
- Thank you and dismissal

As always, if you have a full house for the Memorial Day weekend, bring along a family member or two to allow them to get to know what's happening on our lake.

Preseason Eurasian Milfoil Update 2012

Reported by Jennifer Lick, heading up our milfoil efforts –

I spent August and September of 2011 maneuvering my way through the maze of state government as several things needed to happen before we could get a permit to treat the Eurasian Milfoil.

First a sample was brought into the DNR (thank you Paulette!) to confirm the weed was actually the invasive species. Then the DNR came out to our lake to check that the sample really came from our lake and then they mapped out where the weed was located along the shorelines. We also needed to collect signatures from people whose property was within 150 feet.

The infestation is more pronounced than we initially thought.

To make a long story shorter....

The herbicide was applied in October and will need to be applied every June and October. As you are probably aware, we will most likely always have Eurasian Milfoil on our lake.



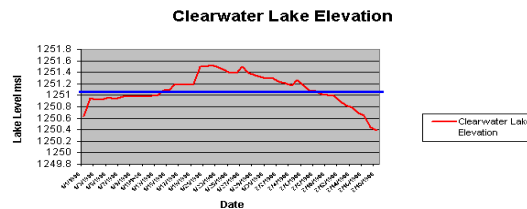
While this is serious I don't want people to feel hopeless about the

situation as this is something we can control. There were many wonderful people who offered to help and if your offers still stand I would love to have your assistance this June ((weekend to be determined). With many volunteers it should only take 1-2 hours to treat the area. I should have more information for everyone by the time the Lake Association meeting rolls around in May.

Jeff Zernov mentioned that if we could find a tasty way to prepare milfoil as a tasty snack he could market it the next time he goes to China. Perhaps a milfoil body wrap or spa treatment? There must be something we could do with this stuff

Water Level Report

On August 11, 2011 the DNR measured a historical high water level on Clearwater Lake. As the attached chart shows, we have successfully returned Clearwater Lake to its normal elevation range.



Property owners should see a reduction of shoreline damage in the spring and a lower algae bloom in the summer due to these efforts.

Our work in no way was intended to establish a new water level for the lake. The minimum height of the lake is determined by the spillway at the dam (by the public access). This dam was constructed in 1955 and serves to control our minimum pool height. In an exceptionally dry year the water level may go below the spillway but this is due to evaporation and not outflow. In order to maintain control of the height and out-flow we need to work with all the lakes downstream to stay on top of obstructions.

More information on our go-forward plan will be available at the annual meeting.

Lake Loon Report

We started the spring with a record 7-nesting pair. We added a nesting platform on the east shore of the Camp property. But the cool weather and strong winds of June played havoc on the nests. We had nests turned over by the winds and eggs washed off the platform. Of the 13-eggs laid we managed to hatch 7 chicks with 6 surviving to the fall. We will test the new east shore location again in 2012 even



though it is obviously subject to bad weather.

2008, 7 chicks to adult,
2009, 9 eggs and 4 chicks to adult
2010, 12 eggs and 10 chicks to adult
2011, 13 eggs, 6 chicks to adult

Tree & Shrub Ordering Crow Wing Cty Soil & Water

Each year the Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District has a Tree/plant sale with about 35 different varieties for our region. This year the sale includes a number of "lake friendly planting kits". More information is available on line at www2.co.crow-wing.mn.us/swcd/. You can call 218-828-6197 to request an order form or email Darren.mayers@co.crow-wing.mn.us. Also you can request to get on their annual mailing list. Paulette and I buy at least 50 different trees and shrubs each year and it's a fun spring project.

I am writing to you folks, not just as 'owners' of property, but as caretakers of our land and curators for future generations.

As you all know, we have had multiple encounters with mother nature "having her say" on and around our lake this year... high lake levels and now the discovery of eurasian milfoil. I want to remind all of you, and especially the folks that live in our immediate vicinity, that we have been invaded by another pest in our woods ... it's common and/or glossy BUCKTHORN. I am very sad to report that it has almost completely taken over the woods on our property. This happened because we weren't aware of what it is. We are suffering now from that ignorance, and I don't want you folks to suffer the same fate, if possible. My wife and I are spending countless hours trying to remove it all by first cutting the larger trees and treating each cut stump with 40% glyphosate (industrial strength Round Up), then pulling the smaller ones out by the roots and now picking, one by one, the seedlings that dominate the forest floor. I include a picture with this email to show you how dense the seedlings are. It is a mammoth job. I should have written more about this in previous years, but late is better than never.

This is a particularly good time of year to see buckthorn because it is one of the only plants whose

leaves remain green. I have taken my bike out to do a casual survey of our area... and I have made a completely unscientific aerial map of the areas where I have found buckthorn.

Please, those of you who are in the heavy infestation area, (basically our neighbors and folks out on O'brien Road heading towards Nels Johnson road) take this very seriously. This plant will eventually dominate your entire forest if you don't eradicate it. The roots secrete an enzyme that actually kills off competing plants in the soil. As the mature forest dies from old age, the only thing left growing in your woods, will literally be buckthorn. I have only looked in our immediate area, so I have no idea about buckthorn growth on the north, east and south sides of the lake. If you have any plans at all to be at your lake home in the next week or two and if it doesn't snow.. please check your property for signs of it. If you have just a few plants or many... cut them and poison them right now if you can!... especially the female ones with berries. Do not make the mistake of using ordinary strength Roundup on them.. it won't do the job. It has to be the "Roundup Pro" and make sure it is 40% glyphosate. Locally, I got mine at Fleet Farm.

I will post several links now to sites about identifying and controlling buckthorn, starting with a youtube video of the buckthorn in my woods. I just walked down a path and took this video so you can see what it looks like right now in our woods (and remember, this is after we have killed or pulled all of the larger trees):

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ev7KBIFm8bM>

Next a produced video.. Buckthorn: A deadly invasion

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vyOX5tNiITQ>

After you have watched this one.. you will see that there are countless more links to youtube videos.

For more detail about our problem and how to deal with it, here is the Minnesota DNR home page for

buckthorn.. after reading the overview, follow the links to identification and control

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/woody/buckthorn/index.html>

We have been cutting with a small chain saw, or clipping off with loppers and then poisoning with roundup using a spray bottle or a home-made sponge tipped applicator. We also have a couple of specially made weed pullers called weed wrenches for pulling them out by the roots.

<http://www.weedwrench.com/weedwrench/>

Fish Stocking Report

The DNR has Clearwater set up to be stocked with Walleyes every 3 years. Here is the result of the 2011 stocking

Date	Number of Fish	Pounds Stocked	Rate (3/lb)
28-Sep-11	786	131	6 fish/lb
27-Sep-11	60	10	6 fish/lb
16-Sep-11	462	11	42 fish/lb
16-Sep-11	25	7	3.5 fish/lb
16-Sep-11	336	8	42 fish/lb
15-Sep-11	3,108	74	42 fish/lb
14-Sep-11	252	6	42 fish/lb
13-Sep-11	630	15	42 fish/lb
Total	5,659	262	

Eating Fish from the Lake

For those regularly eat fish from the lake the following link provides fish consumption guidelines.

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/fca/report.html?downum=18003800>



The results may be surprising to some, with restrictions on the frequency of consuming walleye, bass, and northern pike due to mercury contaminants.

Annual Association Due \$50 - Thanks to all of you who have already contributed their annual dues. If we all contribute our \$50 each year, we will be able to build a fund gradually to take care of the eventual bigger issues that may arise. Please make your check payable to Clearwater Lake Homeowners' Assn. and send to our treasurer: - Louise Seliski, 19254 Dancing Dragon Lane, Ironton, MN 56455

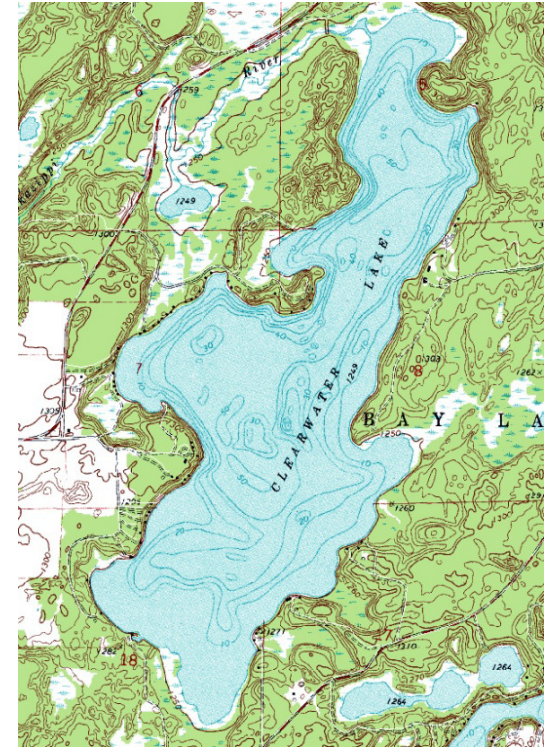
Roster - Please review the enclosed/attached Roster to ensure accuracy of names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses. This includes helping us get information on new lake neighbors and adult children. Please email or send new (or corrected) information to Gary Perkins at giperkins2@comcast.net or 4600 Hibiscus Ave, Edina, MN 55435.

Now on the Web – Through Facebook

facebook

In Facebook just search **Clearwater Lake Homeowner's Association**. Become a Friend of our Facebook group to keep updated on what is going on at "the Lake", and to share photos and information with our lake association neighbors.

Clearwater Lake Homeowners' Assn. April 2012



Annual Meeting Notification

Please join us for the annual meeting of the Lake Association on Saturday morning, May 26th, 2012 beginning at 9am in the Dining Center of Presbyterian Clearwater Forest Camp on Crooked Lake Road. See inside for complete agenda

Co-Chairs – Gary Perkins and Jeff Zernov