

Windemere Lake and Landowners Association

www.minnesotawaters.org/group/windemere



WINDOW

"If you want information, just open a window"

SPRING 2014

A Letter to Our Members:

Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) Infestation Treatment

Spring is just around the corner and our thoughts are on EWM and a plan for 2014. Last summer, Sturgeon Lake responded quite well to the treatment of 13.24 acres. Sand Lake had treatment on 10.27 acres and had to be re-treated on the area south of the golf course. We never know what the lakes will be like after the winter and this winter most of all! Do remember that property owners are financially responsible for any treatment they may need on their lakeshore or as we call it.... near-shore. Near-shore refers to the water from the lakeshore out 150 feet. The opposite of near-shore is off-shore and it refers to the water out beyond 150 feet from shore. Here are your options as we, your lake association board sees them:

1. As soon as you are able, inspect your waterfront for signs of the EWM plant. If you need help identifying it, call one of the board members on your lake for help.
2. Your lake association is hiring Lake Management, Inc. to do our off-shore treatment of EWM, if needed. Lake Management will be sending each of you a letter and an application in case you want them to treat your lakeshore. Fill out the application form and send it back to Lake Management. Audrey Kuchinski, the DNR "permit person" will come and survey the lakeshore footage applied for and decide who needs treatment and how many feet will be allowed. The DNR asks for a \$35.00 permit fee for each application, whether you are getting treatment or not. This is non-refundable. Do not send money with your application for treatment. If you are allowed treatment, the permit charge will be added to your invoice after spraying. If you are denied treatment, Lake Management will invoice you for the \$35.00.
3. You can apply chemicals yourself with a DNR permit. To get this permit, get one off the DNR website or call Audrey Kuchinski, DNR at 1-651-616-2450 ext. 235 for a permit to treat your EWM this way. There are state rules about the quantity of authorized chemicals allowed in the lake and you MUST have a permit.
4. You can hire a different company to treat your EWM.
5. Do nothing and ignore the spread of the plant. You can try pulling or raking the plant.

If you have questions about EWM or want to report large beds of it, please call Jerry Blazevec on Sand Lake. His number is 1-218-626-1651. Those of you on Sturgeon Lake, call Dennis Huddleston, 1-651-900-9085. Jerry and Dennis are going to ride with our DNR friend, Rich Rezanka when he comes to survey the lakes after ice-out. They are also going to be present when Lake Management, Inc. does the spraying of the EWM.

The treatment of the off-shore water is paid for by your lake associations Milfoil Fund, hopefully a DNR grant, contributions from members and friends and if necessary, a request to the Windemere Township Board and the Moose Lake Township Board for monetary help.

We hope this letter answers your questions about the treatment of EWM on and around your lakeshore. If it doesn't, please call an association board member.

Your Lake and Landowners Board of Directors

Lakes Report

ISLAND LAKE:

In 2008 and again in September of 2013, we hired A.W. Research out of Brainerd to fly over Island Lake with their multi spectral camera to expand the measurement of water quality, TSI value of all of Island Lake. The TSI map received, shows the majority of the lake to be in the Eutrophic status range (reduced water clarity, persistent algae/aquatic problems) with higher TSI reading occurring near the shoreline in many areas throughout the lake. Increased nutrient loading into the lake is causing too much algae bloom which shows up in late summer and fall. Nutrients could be from many sources such as grass clippings from mowing close to the water's edge, lawn fertilizer washing into the lake, leaking sewage systems, farm waste, soil washing into the lake when high water occurs, pet waste, soap from grey water and car washing, underground springs and road runoff. Comparing 2013 to 2008, we see there are more "hot spots" and in new areas. Some 2008 questionable areas have subsided, some have expanded. As we write this letter in February, Ron Hansen, Island Lake's "watch dog" and Sam Martin from Pine County SWCD are preparing to do some winter water testing. This is the next step in the process of improving the water quality of Island Lake, according to A.W. Research.

Walk-a-Round

We have printed a brochure about our association. This has been in the works for quite some time and we are eager to show it to the world! We will be including it in our walk-a-round packets we intend to distribute on or around Memorial Day weekend. We will be walking around Sand, Sturgeon, Island, Passenger lakes and maybe our other small lakes too. Yes, that's a lot of walking and we would appreciate your help with it. The walkers will chat with lakeshore owners whenever possible answering questions they might have. If no one is home, the packet will be left on the door handle. We are doing this walk-a-round to gain members, educate folks on how to avoid invasive species populating our lakes and to raise money for our Eurasian Water Milfoil fund and our Water Quality fund. Since grant money has decreased and treatment for invasive species has gone up, we need to replenish our dollars to cover treatments. If you think you can help with the walk-a-round, please let your lake representative know you are willing and able.

Good Idea: If 200 shoreland property owners stopped mowing all the way to the edge of the lake, and left a 25 to 50 foot wide un-mowed area along their shoreline during one summer, at least 30 fewer pounds of phosphorous would enter our lakes. And since every pound of phosphorous can produce a thousand to ten thousand pounds of algae, that's a lot less algae in our lakes. *Minnesota Waters*

2014 Meeting Schedule

June 14 *Conservation Minnesota*

July 12 *Roger Hugill from Fisheries*

August 9 *Pine County Sheriff and Conservation Officers from Pine and Carlton Counties*

All meetings are held at Hope Lutheran Church at 9 a.m. 204 Elm Avenue, Moose Lake

GET THE LEAD OUT

No, we are not talking about exercising. We are talking about the lead weights and jigs that are attached to fishing lines. Every year loons, cranes and other water birds die from lead poisoning. Many of these birds find food on the bottom of the lake and swallow small stones to aid in grinding food. Some of this grit may contain lead. A fish eating bird may be attracted to bait on a hook or swallow a sinker or jig attached to an escaped fish.

Not a Small Problem

A bird with lead poisoning will have physical and behavioral changes, including gasping, tremors and impaired ability to fly. Just one single sinker or jig can poison a water bird.

What can we do?

Use non-lead products. Ask your local sporting goods store to stock non-lead tackle. Discard old lead sinkers and jigs properly. Spread the word. Members can discard old lead tackle at a general meeting. The association will make sure the lead is disposed of properly.

HELP WANTED

- A Secchi Disc Checker on Sand Lake
- A Lake Level Checker on Sand Lake

Also if we don't have your e-mail please give it to Tara Prachar, our Membership Chairperson.

MEMBERSHIP

On the website you can download a 2014 Membership Form. For those members without e-mail you will receive a hard copy via regular mail. Your membership and contributions to the Milfoil and/or Water Quality Fund are greatly appreciated. Through the Memorial Weekend Walk-a Round we hope to expand our membership and lake resident participation.

WINDEMERE LAKE AND LANDOWNERS BOARD MEMBERS

STURGEON LAKE	SAND LAKE	ISLAND LAKE	PASSENGER LAKE
Sandy Schumann 218-390-1141	Pauline Dee 218-485-8578	Chip Wells 218-485-8254	Laurie Patrick 651-336-1024
Tom Landsberger 612-600-3169	Jerry Blazevek 218-626-1651	Ron Hansen 218-485-8567	
Dennis Huddleston 651-900-9085	Janette Muller 218-485-8048	Shirley LaFond 218-372-4209	
Ron Goettsch 651-675-8648	Barb Krig 218-485-8862		
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