

Windemere Township Lakes Association

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WINDOW

"If you want information, just open a window"

Spring 2017

LANDSBERGER, TOM

We are sorry to write that board member, Tom Landsberger, passed away January 17th, 2017. Tom and his wife Nancy, bought their cabin on Sturgeon Island in the early 90s. Besides being an active member in the Lake Association, Tom had been an officer and member of the Sturgeon Lake Island Association.

Tom will be missed by his friends on Sturgeon Lake, at his winter place in Yuma, AZ and many friends and relatives in the Twin Cities.



Over the winter months, your board members were at work....

1. Last November a few Board members drove over to the Audubon Center for a meeting called by Caleb Anderson for the purpose of going over the Pine County AIS Plan for 2017. After hearing the wants and needs of three other lake associations and of other organizations in the county, we decided to put in a request for \$22,647 as we did last year. This money will be used for our chemical treatment on Sand and Sturgeon Lakes this summer. We also put in a request for \$960.00 for an Early Detection Plan we are going to begin in our lake association. With the help of members, we hope to increase awareness of new, strange creatures and plants in our lakes and if found, get a quick start in eliminating and/or controlling them.
After many weeks, we have now heard that the Pine County Commissioners OK'd our requests and we now have those amounts of money to use for our treatment costs and for our Early Detection Project. We thank the commissioners very much.
2. The Board began applying for Grants in 2004 and we are sorry to report that for the first time since we began applying for DNR grants for each lake, we did not get those grants. The DNR funds were low and on the day the grant proposals appeared on the computer, 147 requests for money were received and the first 91 in line got their grants and the money was gone.
3. We all had high hopes that the outlet on Island Lake would be replaced this summer. Pine County Soil and Water is leading this project and it's a big and difficult one with a high cost. A number of meetings were held during the winter but it looks like the project may be on hold until 2018 due to lack of money. Jill Carlier, Manager of Soil and Water is in charge of this project and will be one of our two speakers at our June General meeting.

State's Cabin Owners are Getting Older

By Dave Orrick, dorrick@pioneerpress.com

Minnesota lake home and cabin owners – that oh-so-MN demographic – are getting older. And not any richer. And their health care costs are rising. Which might prove trouble-some for the cherished natural resources – namely our lakes – which lakefront property owners are at the forefront of protecting. Those are among the findings of a study released by Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates, an environmental-advocacy group that often focuses on issues relevant to lake property owners associations. The group called the findings a “disturbing trend” because of the uncertainty it could create over the future of both seasonal property ownership and environmental stewardship. “Simultaneously as owners and the state both struggle to protect the healthy lakes in Minnesota while working to restore the 40% of waters that are degraded, very hard decisions are coming in the short term,” said Jeff Forester, the group’s executive director. “Minnesota is about to experience the largest intergenerational transfer of shoreline property in our history. Yet, the next generation will no doubt be stressed to pay bills and maintain the properties that will come into their ownership in the next decade. The group surveyed some 300 Minnesotans between August and September, paralleling surveys conducted in 2005 and 1999. Those surveyed included property owners who use their cabins only seasonally and those who use lake homes as their primary residence. Here are some of the findings:

AVERAGE AGE: The average age of Lake Home and cabin property owners is 68. That’s up from 62 years old in 2005 and 58 in 1999.

AVERAGE INCOME: The average household income of Lake Home and cabin property owners is \$58,000. That’s pretty much unchanged since the previous two surveys.

WALLEYE GROUP NEEDED: The survey also touched other issues affecting cabin owners. For example, 69% said there should be an organization to protect walleye fishing in Minnesota. However, according to the results, “58% of the lake home and cabin owners interviewed would not support an organization of walleye, crappie and pan fish. Property owners want to know about the cost and the structure of the organization.”

BROADBAND WANTED: 64% of cabin and lake property owners said they would be interested in more state investment in high-speed broadband internet service to Greater Minnesota. Many also said they currently have problems with cellphone and internet coverage and would welcome lower-cost coverage.

Remember to: Clean Drain & Dry!

TEE-SHIRTS

Back by popular demand, we will continue to offer our Lake Association tee-shirts! The tees are available in four colors: white, grey, sky blue, and lime green. Sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL and XXXL. Cost: \$10.00 (S, M, L, and XL), \$11.50 (XXL), \$12.00 (XXXL). The tee-shirts will be available at our June and July General Meetings.



AIS Early Detector Program

The lake association has been funded by Pine County to implement an aquatic invasive species (AIS) early detector program. The program was developed by the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District. We will create twelve (12) toolkits that will be used. Each kit will contain a double headed rake attached to a rope, a zebra/quagga mussel collector, identification manual and reporting forms. We will need three volunteers each from Sand, Sturgeon and Island Lakes and three for the smaller lakes. The volunteers will hang the zebra/quagga mussel detector under their dock and check it occasionally. Volunteers will also occasionally inspect the onshore areas with the double headed rake. If a suspected AIS is found we will confirm it is an AIS and quickly involve the Minnesota DNR. Please consider helping your lake association by volunteering to be part of the AIS Early Detector Program. For more information or to volunteer please contact Chip Wells at fawells3@gmail.com or (218) 485-8254.

HAVE YOU HEARD?

The DNR is pursuing a hunting and fishing license fee increase during the 2017 legislative session. This effort is being undertaken with the support of the Governor, following recommendations from the Citizen Budget Oversight Committee's recent review of the 2015 Game & Fish Fund Report. This initiative requests an increase of \$3 for a resident fishing license (about the price of a scoop of minnows!). Other license fees (including those for hunting endeavors) would also increase. Periodic hunting and fishing license increases are necessary to help offset the budget-eroding effects of inflation.

More information on the facts about the license fee increase can be found at: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/areas/fisheries/hinckley/index.html>

Leslie George from the Area Fisheries will also be speaking to our Association on July 8 so bring your questions and concerns!

Remember to: Clean Drain & Dry!

2017 Lake Association General Meetings: All general meetings are held at the Hope Lutheran Church, 204 Elm Avenue, Moose Lake at 9:00AM. Mark them on your calendar now. We hope to see you at these meetings. Coffee and cookies are served!

June 10 - Heidi Lindgren, DNR Hydrologist/Jill Carlier, Pine County Soil & Water
 July 8 - Leslie George, Area Fisheries Supervisor
 August 12 - Rich Rezanka, DNR

Windemere Township Lakes Association Board Members			
Sturgeon Lake	Sand Lake	Island Lake	Passenger
Ron Goettsch Home: 651-423-1991 Cell: 651-675-8648	Pauline Dee Home: 218-485-8578	Chip Wells Home: 218-485-8254 Office: 480-984-6855	Laurie Patrick Cell: 651-336-1024
Dennis Huddleston Home: 651-900-9085	Jerry Blazevic Home: 218-626-1651 Cell: 218-213-2797	Ron Hansen Home: 218-485-8567	
Terry Peterson Cell: 218-372-3459	Janette Muller Home: 218-485-8048	Clair Strandlie 218-485-8868	
Tara Prachar Home: 218-372-8492 Cell: 218-390-1626	Barb Krig Home: 952-474-2041 Lake: 218-485-8862	Paula Gramling Home: 715-273-6474	
	Rita & Richard Menke Home: 218-485-8071		
	Patty Stasson Home: 952-895-5209		

Check out our website @ www.minnesotawaters.org/windemerelakes