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MAPLE SYRUP DEMONSTRATION AT DEAD LAKE



Mary Martin skims the foam from the maple sap evaporation pan.

If you plan to try making maple syrup this spring, right now is the time of year to get organized, get your equipment and learn how to make maple syrup because the sap is flowing or will begin as soon as the outdoor temperature is above freezing during the day and below freezing at night. Typically, the few weeks beginning at the end of March through early April is the best time of year to collect maple sap and make maple syrup.

Many people wonder how someone can take the clear, maple tree sap and boil it down to make a golden amber maple syrup. Well, this spring, you can watch several Dead Lake property owners as they enjoy this annual ritual

of tapping trees, collecting sap and stoking their fires to begin this wonderful maple syrup making hobby that can be shared with friends and family. You can learn about the simple equipment necessary to make maple syrup and listen as the property owners share their secrets of successful techniques that allow you to enjoy this hobby on your own. Your children and grandchildren will be fascinated with your knowledge of how to turn sap to syrup. It's really pretty simple. If you want to talk to people that have experience with this hobby and help or watch how it's done then call Doug Martin at 612-991-6230 or e-mail dmmartin2@earthlink.net to get more information.

Calendar of Events:

Dead Lake Maple Syrup demonstrations	March / April
Free Walleye Fishing Clinic by Hoot's	Saturday, April 6
COLA Lakescaping seminar	Saturday, April 27
Walker Lake Fish Hatchery tour	Saturday, April 27
Dead Lake Grant – Shoreline restoration demonstrations	May/June
Dead Lake Historical artifact SCUBA dive	Saturday, May 4
Dead Lake Assoc. Annual meeting & Picnic	Saturday, June 8
Dead Lake Sailboat Regatta	Saturday, June 15
4th of July boat parade	Thursday, July 4
Ice cream social	Saturday, July 20
Summer Splash fundraiser/social	Saturday, August 24

Board of Director Openings Effective June 8th

The Dead Lake Association has three Board of Director positions available as of June 8th, 2013. Two of these positions are becoming available simply because of term limits. A Dead Lake Association Board Member can only serve two consecutive 3-year terms. Deb Cullen, Treasurer, and Jim Hatlevig have each served on the Board of Directors for 6 consecutive years. The leadership that they have provided has been outstanding. However, now is the time for others to step forward and build upon their accomplishments with fresh ideas and enthusiasm for improving life at Dead Lake. Current Board Member, Ernie West, Vice President and Nominations Chair, plans to run for re-election in an effort to complete a second 3-year term.

If you have an interest in becoming a Dead Lake Association Board Member, this position is a great opportunity for you to network and meet other interesting people around Dead Lake. You never can tell who you'll meet or what new experiences you'll have that will benefit your life through volunteering at the lake. What better way is there to connect with your lake community and use your life experiences to give a little back? Through the Dead Lake Association, there are lots of opportunities to "pick up the ball and run with it". This is one chance in your life where you can make a real difference.

If you would like to learn more about becoming a Dead Lake Association Board Member, contact Vice President and Nominations Chair, Ernie West at 218-298-2423 or Doug Martin, President, at 612-991-6230 E-mail dmmartin2@earthlink.net

DEAD LAKE ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEETING – June 8th, 2013

The Dead Lake Association's Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 8th, 2013, at the Dent Senior Center, in Dent, Minnesota. The business meeting will begin at 10 a.m. and will be followed by the Annual Picnic at the Dent Lions Park. The picnic will be catered by Nootzi's On Main. Please place this date on your calendar.

Volunteer for Lake Water Testing

The Dead Lake Association needs a volunteer to help conduct lake water testing in the Southwest Bay. Merv Freeman is currently undertaking this responsibility but would appreciate some help. Training, provided by RMB labs, will be included as well as all equipment needed for the lake water testing. If you are willing to devote 1 hour during each summer month to help make Dead Lake a healthier place in which to fish, swim, boat, etc. please call Merv Freeman for more information at 480-586-1241 or e-mail mpfreemanaz@juno.com

Summer Splash Fundraiser Saturday, August 24th, 2013

The event will be held at the Perham Lakesdie Golf Club, Perham MN. Our annual Summer Splash fundraiser and social, will be returning Saturday, August 24th. The planning for this year's event is beginning now. If you would like to meet other people on Dead Lake then this is your chance to network and volunteer to do a little bit to help make the event a success. The first meeting of the Summer Splash Committee will be held Saturday, April 27th. If you're interested in making a difference, call Doug Martin at 612-991-6230 or e-mail at dmmartin2@earthlink.net.

Dead Lake Sailboat Regatta Saturday, June 15th

Would you like to meet other sailboat enthusiasts on Dead Lake?

Joining the Dead Lake Sailboat Regatta, will give you a good reason to get your dry docked sailboat off its trailer and into the water of Dead Lake! You'll join other Dead Lake sailboat hobbyists as you tour Dead Lake and put on a colorful display of bright sails for the lake property owners on shore. This activity is still in its formative stage so contact sailboat owner Roger Cullen at 218-371-9620 or e-mail rcullen@prtcl.com to discuss the event details.



Rock Markers Appear Like Magic

Have you ever wondered how those big white, orange-ringed, pencil-shaped, bobber-style rock markers magically appear on Dead Lake in the spring and then disappear in the fall?

For the past several years, Dead Lake Association Member, Roger Cullen, has been spending hundreds of dollars for boat fuel to travel all over Dead Lake in his pontoon boat to distribute these rock markers on your behalf. The placement, maintenance and storage of the rock markers is a Dead Lake Association sponsored program that's being implemented by Roger Cullen and provides safer travel on Dead Lake. In addition to safer travel, if you enter these marked areas very carefully, the rock markers can also identify some great fishing spots!

Rock markers come in many shapes and sizes. However, they all serve the same purpose and that is to mark hazards that lurk just below the surface.

The Dead Lake Association's rock markers are cylindrical, white and orange and are approximately five feet tall and one foot wide.

The rock markers identify a general area of shallow water or rocks. When they form a line, this usually indicates a submerged rock or sand bar.

As a general rule, the Dead Lake Association rock markers are placed in the lake before opening fishing and removed by mid to late October.

As the summer progresses, the changing water level of Dead Lake can

A BIG WELCOME GOES OUT TO THE FOLLOWING NEW RESIDENTS:

Jim & Kristin Wherley	Sunset Bay Resort	Beach #13
Steve & Angie Lueschen	36660 Lillis Drive	Beach #14
Richard & Pam Haberman	34727 Buddy Lane	Beach #22

If we have missed anyone, we apologize.

create new challenges for boaters. An area of the lake that's safe in May, could take out your boat motor prop in July. The floating rock markers help boaters keep the underwater topography of Dead Lake in perspective.

Our seasoned "lake captain" stripes are usually awarded to the boaters that purchase or repair their damaged prop. They quickly learn that studying a topographic map of the lake bottom and knowing your lake is the best way to avoid these costly and unnecessary repairs.

For many years the acquisition, placement, maintenance, removal and storage of lake rock markers has been the responsibility of lake associations and private individuals. State and local government do not get involved unless there are special circumstances or navigable waters that need marking.

All of our markers have been numbered for maintenance purposes as well as identifying those that break loose from their mooring. The constant water motion will wear through ropes, cables and chains in a very short period of time

If you find a wayward buoy that has drifted to the wrong spot in the lake or you have been storing a lost rock marker at your lake property and are ready to give it up, please contact one of our Dead Lake Association Board Members.

Often times after heavy rain events, the winds can move partially submerged logs and other floating debris into areas that otherwise would be safe. Depending on water temperatures and the stage of decomposition, logs can "gas up" and become buoyant after being submerged for decades. This situation can cause the logs to float at or near the water's surface and make for a very unpleasant and unexpected collision. If you come across one of these hazards, if possible, safely mark the item so it can be seen and avoided by fellow boaters until it can be removed or relocated. Then contact a Dead Lake Board Member or Sheriff's Department with the location of the obstacle. If you have the ability, safely move the obstacle towards the nearest shore, preferably to an area that is undeveloped.

It is good practice to keep your eyes open and your personal flotation device on at all times because you never know when a buoy may float away or when Mother Nature will put a log right where you happen to be going.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the Dead Lake Association's Rock Marker program or to thank Roger with a note of appreciation for his help, contact Roger Cullen at 218-371-9620 or e-mail: rcullen@prtcl.com

A Ship in a Harbor...a short story by Jon Skow, who is a Dead Lake Property owner located in the North Bay

Somewhere in a cardboard box in my basement there is an old High School yearbook. On page 37, down in the lower right hand corner, there is a picture of a young man with a full head of hair and the rest of his life shining in his eyes. Beneath that photo, it is written...

"A ship in a harbor is safe...but that is not what ships are for".

The young man in the photo was me, yet the quote below was not chosen by me. It was a directive in those days, by the student council, that each senior locate a quote which describes themselves to go with their photo in the year book. As usual, I paid little attention to directives and, at the last minute my favorite English teacher (who was also overseeing the yearbook production) slid that in there to cover for me.

I often wonder why little things like that stuck with me for so long. It happened to be that teacher who sort of lit a fire in me to reflect, remember... and write.

Over the years, I have used that quote with my students, my kids...even my friends to make a point about life and purpose and participation.

Dead Lake is a mysterious and wonderful place to live or visit. I believe that visitors cannot appreciate as fully the changes as much as those of us who live here, because it changes by the season and the minute. You miss a minute, day or season here and you miss a lot.

One autumn, many years ago when my little girl was still a little girl, she and I found that we had a mutual interest in things that affect the senses and emotions. She was at that age...I dunno, 6,7,8... years old? You know...when you are young enough to lack a concept of time, but old enough to appreciate everything for what it really is in its purest form? When your yesterdays are easily forgotten and tomorrow isn't even on the calendar?

As the leaves changed and the air cooled and days grew shorter that fall, she spent many sunny afternoons checking on the pumpkins in the patch or hanging on to the collar of the black dog and be pulled around the yard giggling and offering hugs in exchange for "kisses" from "Molly", the middle aged lab. Little Haley would devote an hour or two burying herself in a pile of elm leaves raked so

by me for just that purpose. Watching clouds from that vantage as they changed from horses, to turtles and into shapes that resembled her grandfather's face. She treated that dog with red apples from the low branches of the trees in the yard. "One for me and one for you".

"Make me a fire daddy"... "Ok, you're a fire". "Go ask mom for the box of matches"... I watched her drink in that autumn here on the shores of Dead Lake and am glad she had the chance. Sunrises and sunsets and sunfish.

Then, one day, she grew up.

High School, boyfriends, sports, ballet, "Miss this or that"...then college. Gone. The order of things I suppose. After all, it is a father's duty to work himself out of a job.

It wasn't until she graduated from college and found her foreword gears that I learned about how her past had stuck with her. Things she remembered that I had put away because I had to.

She comes back to Dead Lake from time to time to see me.

She and I sat by a fire as adults one evening here not long ago and as the smoke curled through the void left by the elm tree that had succumbed to the inevitable for elms now, she went on and on about the way the elm leaves smelled and crunched when she was little. Lamented the loss of the tree and the big swing that left when the tree was felled. She talked about what a good dog Molly was. She reminded me that there is no smell that can be mistaken for the inside of a pumpkin come Jack-O-Lantern season...

...and "remember that time we went duck hunting dad?" "Remember that?"

My mind went back to that perfect fall with her as a little girl on Dead Lake and it all came back to me...

Part 2...

A daughter's fond memory... duck hunting on Dead Lake

You see, Haley was a lovely little girl. A girlie girl. If you looked up peaches and cream as a descriptor, you would read

about her face and her hair and her demeanor. Not a tomboy by any stretch but always interested in what daddy was doing outside all the time.

She would see molly and me come home off the lake after a hunt and run outside to see the birds and pet the dog and ask me questions. During that particular duck season, the "gumboot gods" were good to me and Molly. It had been kind of dry and the water was low. Each hunt provided me with the sights and sounds and shooting that many seasons lack for water fowlers. Like the good old days. The "good old days" most definitely had their ups and downs, but one tends to pick and choose memories. I would pick and clean the birds and Haley would ask about the parts and pieces and play with severed feet and wings.

As that season progressed, the trees became bare and the wind grew sharp. Halloween came and went and November pointed a bony finger towards the reality of winter.

One Friday evening as the duck season waned, I laid out some gear for a morning hunt that I knew would most likely be the last hurrah for the year, Haley sidled up to me and out of nowhere and asked if she could go along in the morning. (Haley was and is a "sidler"). My first urge was to say "no honey, you are not old enough...it is too cold...you won't like it and then you won't want to go ever again", but I didn't do that. I looked at her lovely, little face and thought about what she would most likely experience if I took her.

It would not be the lake of the summer people and the sunfish and the sunburns. It would be the lonely lake as it is when even the most insane duck hunters would have left it alone to go to sleep alone. My ace in the hole was that I knew that, even at a time when human visitors have left Dead Lake for the year, thousands of winged visitors "might" stop here for a day or two. No guarantees, but life, and duck hunting is based on educated guesses and learning that regardless of the outcome..."A Ship in a Harbor is Safe".

I wanted Haley to see the last, grand, private migration, but made no guarantees to myself. I was going to hunt in the morning regardless. I had learned

long ago that 99% of failure has to do with not showing up.

Haley's mother had given up on worrying about my safety in such situations years before, but I knew that I needed to run it by mom first before I said yes to the little girl. Adult promises were made in whispers with some spelling out of words like "drowning" and "frostbite" and "pee". I finally secured reluctant permission.

Haley smiled as even little girls do when they get their way when I scooped her up and whispered in her ear that mom said that she could go. We talked a little about what to expect and she went to bed earlier than normal because I convinced her that "going" hinged on her waking up early.

Before I turned in for the night, I made my trip outside for Molly's final airing. In the dark overhead I could hear the unmistakable sound of wings ahead of winter. Wave after wave of divers were on a mission for somewhere south. I couldn't see them, but my mind's eye knew exactly what they were and what they would look like if I could. I knew that many were dropping into the lake for a rest like ducks have done for thousands of years before outboard motors and aluminum boats. The air had that feel of the last... and the beginning of another season.

I thought about how cold it was and how it would be colder in the morning and whether or not this was a good decision for me as a father to make. I puzzled over that for quite a while that night. I thought about backing out and making an excuse. As a young father, I was learning that there is no handbook for decisions with kids, and by the time you figure out right and wrong, it is too late. In the end I allowed the weather and wings to make up my mind for me.

Part 3...

A father's gift...Duck hunting on Dead Lake

Waking Haley in the morning was not easy for either of us. She was snuggled in her warm bed, sleeping the sleep that only little kids and little puppies sleep, but soon we were packing sandwiches and blankets and bundling her into every warm thing she owned and her excitement grew.

Molly bounced down to the boat in the dark, I had a flashlight in one hand and Haley's little hand in my other, taking careful steps on the frosty slope.

I settled my little girl into a nest of musty Army Surplus blankets in a hollowed out pile of decoys and made sure that she was smiling. Molly took advantage of Haley's bound state and snuck a few "kisses" on the little bit of exposed "peaches and cream" available to lick. (Labs are opportunists).

The wind had stilled some during the night which would make for a safer trip across the big bay but I knew that the narrows would be tight with ice and there was an outside chance that we would not make it to the place where I had planned to end my season. Several pulls on the rope and my motor warmed up. The sight of the exhaust smoke in the beam of my head lamp was familiar to me in the cold. Turning my head and catching a look at Molly and Haley nestled in a pile of frosty decoys, empty 12 gauge hulls and bits of reeds was new to me. Both the little girl and the dog were smiling. I smiled too.

The trip across the bay was easy. A light chop. Not the 3 foot rollers I had experienced in past Novembers.

Closing in on the narrows, I slowed and let my light find the edge of the ice that I knew would be there. Where the dark, open water met the ice, my light defined were the waves kept the ice wet. I estimated that it about a half inch thick so I nudged it slowly and the grating on the aluminum hull was noisy, but not unpleasant. I twisted the throttle for momentum and shattered shards skittered across that which stayed firm and we moved through it slowly and steadily. Molly always made her way to the bow when we got to the narrows, ice or not and I could sense her there now. Paws up on the gunwale and I knew that her unerring nose would be twitching, searching for all the things that dogs like her smell in the dark. The dog knew where we were going...and why. I was sure that Haley was listening and wondering and perhaps a little afraid. I sensed that she felt safe and happy to find out these things to add to her list of senses she was learning to use though. I felt relieved when we cleared that sheet of ice, and were in the quiet water on the lee side of Martin's Island. Heading west, protected by the island and soon the west shore, I cut the motor and asked Haley how she was faring and what she thought of the ice. She said she was having fun but that the ice was noisy.

A Ship in a Harbor...continues on pg 11

Ditch 25 Outlet Plan Challenged in Court

Otter Tail County's approval of the Ditch 25 plan to drain water into the downstream lakes including Dead Lake has hit a few speed bumps this winter.

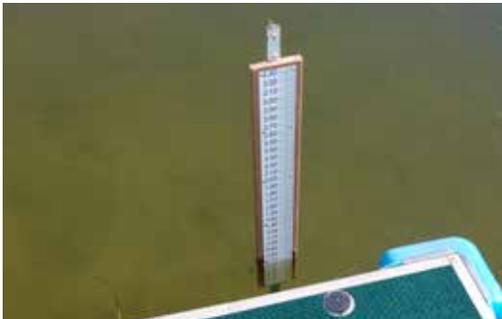
After the Otter Tail County Commissioners voted, in July 2012, to approve an outlet plan for Little McDonald, Kerbs and Paul lakes, west of Perham, that ties into Ditch 25, the McDonald Lake Association sued Otter Tail County in August 2012 and is appealing the Commissioners Order to establish a drainage

system using Ditch 25. Oral arguments are to be heard in District Court on March 20, 2013 with a jury trial expected sometime in October 2013.

The approved outlet route would extend in a southwesterly direction. Water would discharge from Little McDonald Lake to Berger Lake, in turn flowing through Big McDonald, Round, Star, Dead, Walker and Otter Tail lakes. Then the water would flow into the Otter Tail River.

Dead Lake Water level

If you want to know how high (or low) the water level is for Dead Lake during this summer, we have the perfect “one minute” volunteer task for you. We need a full-time lake resident to walk down to their dock and take weekly lake level readings from a special gauge that will be mounted near the end of their dock and call the readings into the Minnesota DNR. It’s that simple. These historical lake level readings have been recorded by the DNR for decades. The lake level readings provide the data to track lake trends. This trend information is important for lake management decisions. If you are willing to take on this interesting task and begin the readings in May, please call Doug Martin at 612-991-6230 or e-mail dmmartin2@earthlink.net to schedule the gauge installation at your dock.



Tim Sullivan built the gauge for the lake association.

Dead Lake 2013 Ice Fishing Stories



Evan Toppari is all smiles as he holds a walleye that he and his grandfather, Justin Toppari, caught while fishing Dead Lake during a New Year’s ice fishing outing this year. This is only one of several nice fish that were caught during their grandfather/grandson time together in the fish house.



Erv Wegscheid is holding a monster walleye that was caught and released while he and Ernie West were fishing Dead Lake this winter. That monster fish is back in Dead Lake waiting for another “big kid” to fulfill a dream and have a great fish story to tell.



Jim Hatlevig has a real Dead Lake fish story to tell. Jim caught and released this whopper of a walleye while fishing Dead Lake this winter. Jim said that he was only out ice fishing twice this winter.

During the first outing, Jim caught and released about a 4lb walleye. The second outing, Jim caught and released this huge 28 1/2 inch walleye. After only two ice fishing outings Jim quit fishing so that he wouldn’t hurt his ice fishing average for this winter!

If you have a recent Dead Lake fishing story and photos, send them to the Dead Lake Association Newsletter Editor, Kay Helm at khelm@eot.com

FREE Dead Lake Association Group Tour of the MN DNR Walker Lake Fish Hatchery April 27 at 9:00AM

Would you like to learn more about the Minnesota DNR's walleye stocking program and how it affects Dead Lake?

The Dead Lake Association has arranged for a special, FREE group tour of the Walker Lake Fish hatchery to be held on Saturday morning, April 27th. You'll watch big walleyes being stripped of their eggs by the DNR staff and you'll see millions of walleye fry in storage tanks being prepared for stocking in area lakes. The Dead Lake group will meet at the fish hatchery at 9:00AM for coffee and rolls and then tour the fish hatchery. To reserve a spot in this group tour, contact Mary Martin at 612-804-7804 or e-mail memartin900@gmail.com.

The fish hatchery is located about 1 mile south of Basswood, MN, near the east end of Dead Lake. The fishery address is 32870 County Highway 14, Richville, MN. There is a green sign near the entrance that says "State Fish hatchery." The timing of this hatchery tour is critical because the fish hatchery is only open to the public for a few weeks during April while the walleye are spawning. The water temperature in the Dead River, where the walleye are netted, must be approaching 45 degrees for the spawning activity to begin.

Although walleye stocking is a very

popular topic with Dead Lake residents, the DNR estimates that only about 4% of the annual walleye catch are "stocked" walleyes. It's roughly estimated that 96% of the walleye caught from Dead Lake come from natural reproduction. Therefore, if we want to catch more walleyes, Dead Lake property owners must protect and restore fish habitat and water quality on Dead Lake. Loss of fish habitat, water quality and increasing fishing pressure continue to be the biggest issues in walleye management – not whether walleyes are stocked in Dead Lake. If you want more walleyes in Dead Lake then practice "Catch & Release" of the larger walleyes and protect the fallen trees and aquatic "weeds" along your shoreline rather than destroying them.

During 2012, the DNR stocked over 6.5 million "mosquito size" walleye fry in Dead Lake. This is double the amount compared to previous years. Of over 1,000 lakes in Otter Tail County, this number was second only to Otter Tail Lake. According to the DNR, walleye fry are the most cost effective method to stock Dead Lake. Since 2001, 3.3 million walleye fry have been stocked in Dead Lake on a biennial basis and this has now been increased to 6.5 million fry.

The DNR staff puts out fish nets in the Dead River, located near the fish

hatchery, and captures the walleye as they prepare to spawn in the river. The lake water temperature must approach 45 degrees before the fish start to spawn. In the morning, the DNR staff will be stripping the captured walleye of their eggs. The staff will also be providing demonstrations and a video of the hatchery operations. The hatchery is only open to the public for about 7-14 days out of the year. The walleye eggs begin to hatch within about 7 days. These small walleye "fry" are stocked into the various lakes on a rotating every 2 year basis.

The main warm-water hatchery work begins in April, when DNR workers net spawning walleyes, strip the eggs and milt (sperm), and mix the two together. The fertilized eggs are then taken to the hatchery, incubated, and hatched. About two-thirds of the tiny fry are stocked a few days after hatching. The rest are reared over the summer to fingerling size (4-6 inches) in more than 200 rearing ponds (winterkill wetlands and lakes). In fall they are netted and taken to lakes for stocking.



30% Increase in Membership!

The Dead Lake Association membership has increased 30% since May 2012. In May 2012, the association had 155 members and this number has grown to 202 members as of February 2013. If you are not a current member and would like to join, please contact Kay Helm at 218-758-3221 or download a Dead Lake Association membership application at our web site: <http://www.dead-lake.org>.

The Minnesota DNR stocks walleyes in roughly 900 lakes throughout the state, adjusting stocking levels up and down as necessary. Not every lake is stocked with walleyes. Many large, windswept northern lakes are natural walleye factories that don't need a visit from the hatchery truck. To stock these lakes would be like planting corn in a field already sown with seed.

Common walleye stocking questions

Q: What's the difference between stocking walleye fry and stocking walleye fingerlings?

A: It's much more cost effective to stock fry (mosquito-sized walleyes) than fingerlings (4 to 6-inch walleyes), so the DNR stocks fry most often. Sometimes a fisheries manager will stock fry in the spring and then check back in the fall to see what proportion survived to reach fingerling size. If not enough did, then supplemental fingerlings may be stocked that fall.

Another difference is that fry stocking is more variable-some years are booms; some are busts. Fingerling stocking results tend to be more consistent.

Q: How long does it take a stocked fish to reach catchable size?

A: It takes several years for the tiny walleyes stocked each spring or fall to reach 1 pound, or about 14 inches. On Dead Lake it takes about 4-5 years for the walleye fry to reach 1 lb.

As fishing pressure on Dead Lake increases, anglers crop off the keeper-sized fish as soon as the fish reach keeper size. Soon, more and more small fish dominate the Dead Lake fish populations. Decent-sized fish become rare.

The only solution, say biologists and a growing number of anglers, is to limit the number of medium-sized and large fish that are harvested. In time, that would result in an increase in the average size of fish that anglers catch from Dead Lake. If you want to catch larger walleyes in Dead Lake then practice "catch and release" of the medium-sized and large walleyes so that they can reproduce naturally. This is a great way to "recycle" walleyes and let someone else share the same excitement that you felt when you landed that big one! A big walleye can provide a meal for the day or several anglers memories for a lifetime.

Q: Why are some lakes stocked with more walleyes than other lakes?

A: Bigger stocked lakes generally get more fish than smaller lakes. Stocking levels can vary however, depending on factors such as the amount of prey available and lake productivity. For example, lakes that have lots of yellow perch generally can support more walleye stockings than lakes that don't.

Q: Why does the DNR stock lakes every other year rather than yearly?

A: A generation of walleyes stocked or hatched one year (called a year class) will eat much of the food needed by the next year class. This phenomenon is called year class suppression.

FREE Walleye Fishing Clinic

Learn from local professional guide, Brett Setterholm, as he discusses – "Walleyes and Structure" – during a free walleye fishing clinic being held at Hoots Marine, Perham, MN Saturday, April 6th, from 10:00AM to 12:PM.

Dead Lake Grant Money for Shoreland Restoration

This spring is the time for planting! To help you protect Dead Lake and solve your storm water run off problems, you can receive a Dead Lake Grant that will cover 75% of the project cost! The grants are being made available through the Minnesota Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. The grant program is designed to restore your shoreline and control storm water run off on your lake property. You'll get a free lakescaping design, technical help and, if you move quickly, some free help with installation.

No project is too small but the grant funds are limited so now is the time to take action.

Several storm water control projects on Dead Lake are already well into the design phase and plants are about to be ordered for installation in May.

If you would like to learn more about the Dead Lake Grant program and get a free property analysis then contact Spence Schram at 218-758-3280 or e-mail sschram@arvig.net



Too Many Small Northern Pike

Letter to the Editor

My name is Jesse Ternus and my wife Toni and I recently purchased the home with the half log siding and green roof just north of the public access on the main lake. I had never fished Dead Lake prior to the purchase of our home in 2010. One thing that became painfully apparent to me once I started walleye fishing Dead Lake is the overwhelming amount of small northern pike in the lake. I cannot help wonder if the strong population of small northern pike in Dead Lake is good for the overall ecosystem. I know it is definitely hard on bait while walleye fishing. I recently contacted Lake Association president Doug Martin to discuss my concern with him and he encouraged me to find other interested parties on Dead Lake and bring our concerns to MN DNR to first determine if the high population of small Northern is of any concern to the vitality of other game fish such as walleye and second if there is anything that can be done about this. Doug told me this issue had been addressed several years ago but I feel it may be time to revisit this issue. I think most Dead Lake residents would agree that more quality i.e. big northern pike and less little bait stealing thieves with the potential to eat all of our walleye fry, would be optimal. Neighboring lakes such as Big and Little Pine and Ottertail consistently produce Northern in the 10lb, 15lb and occasional 20lb class and I think Dead Lake could also produce fish of this class without the nuisance of small northern. If you share my concern and wish to address this issue, please contact me via docternus@msn.com or call me at 612-810-4188 or simply stop by at 35353 Dead Lake Lane. My wife and I would love to meet other anglers on the lake. We work and live in the Twin Cities so you would probably have to catch us on a weekend. Thanks.

Jesse Ternus

Dead Lake property owner

The Cost of Dead Lake Fire Protection

Is anyone really ready for a fire in their lake home or on their lake property? I'm sure not. Are you ready to have the volunteer Dent Fire Department called to your property in an emergency? I don't think anyone is. As Dead Lake property owners, our buildings and grounds are protected by the volunteers of the Dent Fire Department but, to my biggest surprise, it is at quite an expense.

The Dent Fire Department charges \$500 for the first hour and each additional hour is charged at a rate of \$250/hour. A small grass fire that is out of your control is a minimum cost of \$500.00 and a major fire that would take up to 20 hours for the Dent Fire Department to get under control and extinguish would cost you \$5000.00.

No one wants to go through this dilemma. In addition to the fact that the Dead Lake homeowner has to deal with the loss of their personal property from a fire; you also get billed quite an amount of money from the Dent Fire Department. The Dent Fire Department is comprised of volunteers that I hope have the most current and correct equipment to fight a grass or house fire on our lake.

Our homeowners insurance is through Allstate Insurance. The policy covers the initial \$500.00 fire department charge without additional cost. Any increase in fire coverage is an additional cost that's charged to my annual premium. I can add more fire dept coverage at a cost of \$30.00 for a \$2000.00 charge from the fire department and \$90.00 for a \$5000.00 charge from the fire department.

I've been told by my insurance agent that other rural areas pay an additional \$25.00-\$30.00 per year on their taxes for direct use to the Fire Department. This is something I believe would be great for all homeowners (a very reasonable cost compared to a fire dept charge) and also for the Dent Fire Dept who could upgrade and purchase new equipment that is needed to fight a lakeshore fire. The new equipment could include pumps, collapsible tanks, hoses, generators or whatever they feel that they need as trained professionals to fight our fires.

I have talked to my adjacent neighbors and they concur with me that this tax or fee would help the Dent Fire Department and be a reasonable expense for us as lakeshore property owners.

I would hope that none of us would ever have to use this additional fire coverage but it would keep the loss to our personal check book to a minimum. If each homeowner paid a yearly fee of \$25.00-\$30.00 in exchange for a comfort level in case the "what if" ever happens. This approach would also help our volunteer Dent Fire Department get the fire fighting equipment that they need to fight a fire on our lake properties.

Do you know what your fire coverage is? You may be surprised as to how little is covered without additional insurance cost to you.

If you share my same concerns and would like to explore ways to get this fire coverage fee or tax implemented or you have another solution, please contact me at 701-220-0120 or e-mail eti@btinet.net.

Sincerely

Larry Ewer

Dead Lake property owner

WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS?

We welcome your participation in these pages. The best way to contribute is to e-mail your submission to Kay Helm at khelm@eot.com or mail your submission to Dead Lake Association P.O. Box 127 Richville, MN 56576.

College Student's Essay Choice? Dead Lake



Tonya Nore with her daughter, Layla.

Dead Lake, Minnesota: A Vacationer's Sanctuary

Ever since I was a little girl, fishing has always been in my blood. It has been instilled in me like a parent teaching a child to always clean up after their messes. During the cold winter months in Iowa, I longed for the days of spring and summer to surface, in hopes that I could be on my merry way to my family's cabin on a beautiful lake in northern Minnesota. I can remember the long drives up there, for they provided a fun time of bonding with family. The aroma of bacon sizzling in the morning, along with its ability to make me drool in my sleep made for an interesting experience. Embedded in my memory are the beautiful sunny skies that took my breath away each time I strode out onto the dock on those 70-degree mornings. Yet the thing that put the biggest smile on my face was gazing out on the tranquil, glistening waters of the lake until my eyes would wander upon the fishing boat, its engine revved up, ready to take me out on the glitter-like substance to be fully immersed in a water-induced dream. Whether travelers are looking for a



Tonya Nore needed an essay topic for a college composition course that she was taking last year. She chose to write about Dead Lake. Her parents, Gale & Vivian Nore, purchased their Dead Lake home, located in the Southwest Bay, in 2008. As a result, Tonya has spent her summers at Dead Lake. Since Tonya's essay was a college assignment, she was asked to pick a product to evaluate and paint a picture in the readers mind so they would want to experience what the writer composed. According to her father, Gale Nore, "Tonya chose Dead Lake because her memories are embedded in her mind and heart. It is a place that she would wholeheartedly recommend to anyone."

relaxing place to bring their families, good fishing spots filled with an array of fins, friendly faces, or to see the sky's beautiful offerings in a whole new light, Dead Lake in Ottertail County, Minnesota, will provide any vacationer with these, plus so much more.

Deciding where to take the family for a new summer vacation experience can turn into quite the process. Luckily, the choice can be truly that simple. Dead Lake is located about 3 ½ hours northwest of the Twin Cities in Minnesota. The lake's location is far enough away from any loud, fast city to provide travelers with a feeling of being in another world, yet it is surrounded by little towns that carry all the necessary provisions while on vacation. The location provides not only numerous beach resorts and vacation houses that families can rent for reasonable rates, but also has some very beautiful, on-the-lake properties for sale, if so desired. Most of the rental cabins are locally owned, therefore giving the vacationer a chance to have a more personal experience. Along with the housing rentals comes the opportunity to rent boats, boating equipment, and

many other fun water-craft. In fact, Dead Lake is known for its 7,901 acres of beautiful waters (DNR Minnesota), including 30 miles of shoreline. It is the largest lake in Otter Tail County with plenty of room for numerous water festivities such as, fishing, sail-boating, jet-skiing, and water-skiing. Those who desire a more soothing activity can head to the middle of the lake to sunbathe, letting the rays warm them from the inside out while enjoying a good, hearty novel as the soothing waves rock them like a serenade. No matter what a vacationer's vice may be, Dead Lake provides ample choices and ample time to decide.

One of Dead Lake's greatest experiences is its' fishing. Whether people are new visitors or have been on the lake for years, a great fishing excursion is essential. Unlike many other lakes, finding ideal fishing spots on this lake comes easily. Wherever a good fishing hole exists, one can be sure there are two or three more not very far from the first. There are about sixteen different species in Dead Lake, with 97 percent of the species considered "good eating" fish. They range anywhere from the exotic looking Pumpkinseed sunfish to the agile-like Northern Pike to the "man's man" fish, the Largemouth Bass. Let's not forget the Crappie sunfish. In spite of its lackluster name, the

College Essay...continues on pg 13

To the east, that color in the sky that has no name was banding the horizon. Not light, just the promise that perhaps another day would take place. I nosed the boat into more skim ice to make sure that I could get us into a stand of brittle cattails for a hide, then backed out and tossed out exactly 37 diver decoys. (Superstitious).

We soon found ourselves back in the cattails and mechanical things were quiet. No battery powered lights. Only the thumbnail moon heading west and the stars overhead and that color which has no name in the east. I poured some hot chocolate for Haley to cup in her mittened hands. Steam was rising from it and I hoped that it would warm her little face and insides. No more crunching of ice or purring of the motor. Molly's shivering whine had to be explained to Haley. "She is more excited than cold" I said.

There was one other sound that stood out right then. Where the water met the base of each tattered bull rush or beaten rice stem, or weary cattail, there was a band of ice where the cold air completed the connection. Now that we were quiet, the lake was not. The short waves made them gently collide and it sounded like a giant musical instrument. I heard Haley whisper, "listen to the bells daddy". "I hear them sweetie". I had her turned and still bundled so that she could see out over the lake where the decoys were. I wanted nature to put on its grandest, most private show for her.

Part 4...

"Those were ducks, Honey"...Duck hunting on Dead Lake

Several minutes later, from behind us and to our right (which would be northwest as we were situated) a hiss turned into a roar overhead as 20-some, sharp, black silhouettes ripped through that eastern band of light and were gone just as quickly against the black of the far shoreline. "Those were ducks honey" I said to my bundled little princess, all tucked in and safe.

"I know dad, I saw them she whispered". Funny. I never told her to whisper or be quiet; she just had the presence to whisper like in church on Sunday. I realized that my teeth were getting cold because I was

smiling so hard. It is funny how a little girl and a black dog can make a man's teeth cold.

I could tell by the sound and fleeting glimpse of that flock that they had spotted my decoys and would spin low and come back very shortly. Still dark enough to where I also knew that we wouldn't see them until they were upon us, I said "they will come to visit us in a few more seconds". Soon there was that quick rush of wings cupped hard on cold dense air and in an instant, the flock splashed in the pocket of my spread. There was peeking and whispering and explanations about not shooting birds on the water, and the legal and ethical behavior that goes along with "time".

As the slow sun began to clear things up, more flocks could be seen and heard. None were of that "milling" variety. These birds were all headed in the same direction. On a mission. South. Some pitching into big rafts in the big water, but all feathered motion had a southern feel to it. Haley and I talked about the migration. I told her where they came from and where they went to...why they went and came back... and why. More hot chocolate and a peanut butter sandwich... Soon it was time. I slid 3 red shells into my Winchester and told Haley that when she heard the click of the safety to expect it to get loud. Haley had been around guns and shooting since she was a baby, but I just wanted her to be prepared.

At legal time, three mergansers whistled through the decoys and I let them pass as I am not fond of their flavor. A few minutes later, that ripping sound came again from behind and to the right as 30 odd Ring bills gave us a look. I saw them wheel and turn...cupped and tumbling. Safety click, POW...POW...POW... splash...splash. Molly launched herself from the boat and Haley watched the dog do her job and understood more fully the "throw two dummies off the dock" game that she played in warmer months.

Two fat drakes. Blackest black and whitest white destined for the grill later in the day. Haley held one and smoothed its perfect feathers and touched its open, yellow eye with her mitten. I felt better about my decision.

More flocks came and went. Bigger flocks committed to the rafts far beyond us. Some singles and pairs bit on my meager spread though and I dropped two more birds. The last was a green headed, drake Goldeneye. He was either poorly hit or, as "whistlers" are prone, just didn't want to give up that easily. Head low to the water; the wounded duck kept just ahead of Molly's black nose but was losing distance. It dove and Molly circled as I knew they both would.

"Where did the duck go?" Haley asked. I explained how they sometimes dive and never come up, but I also knew that

A Ship in a Harbor...continues on pg 12

Kerbs, Paul and Rusch lakes contain zebra mussel larvae...

Last fall, the DNR confirmed that water samples taken late this summer from Kerbs, Paul and Rusch lakes in Otter Tail County contained zebra mussel larvae (veligers).

In association with a proposed water outlet project, the Little McDonald, Kerbs and Paul Lake Improvement District (LMKP-LID) contracted with RMB Environmental Laboratories, Inc. (RMB Labs) in Detroit Lakes to collect an August water sample from Little McDonald, Paul, Rusch and Kerbs lakes. The proposed water outlet project would address high water issues in the surrounding area by connecting these lakes to several other lakes before the water enters the Otter Tail River system.

"High water in this area has caused damage to shorelines, property and roads," said

Zebra Mussel...continues on pg 15

Molly had a special talent.

“Just keep watching” I said to my little girl. Molly treads in a circle...and then...disappeared herself. She was under for a good 7 seconds, then popped up with a big black and white bird in her mouth. As she swam to the boat from yonder with that bird, I could tell she was proud of herself. Plenty of life left in the duck too as its paddles were flapping and its head was up, but it had met with more determination than it could match.

Part 5...

“Little girls, middle-aged dogs and old men...Duck hunting on Dead Lake

I took the bird from Molly and wrung its neck then hoisted the sopping lab over the transom.

Enduring my obligatory “cold shower” as she shakes off has never been a problem for me. Haley got a little bit of it too but Molly seemed to aim for me. We laughed at how “at least we didn’t have to swim out there to get the birds ourselves”.

A bird shy of a limit, I noticed Haley’s lips were moving in such a way that it was obvious that the cold had made it through the blankets and pink long johns and the hot chocolate.

I fired up the motor and picked up my blocks in reverse, and with the last in the boat, we made for home. Daylight now made the lake less mysterious and scary. The ice in the narrows that we had broken in the dark had refrozen but was an easier get through on the way back.

Boat on the lift. Haley carrying birds. Molly rolling in the grass.

We talked about everything as I cleaned the birds and she “helped”. Molly got the boiled giblets as usual, and later that morning, there was a “nap on the lap” for Haley and me.

The next day, the lake was frozen except for a few spots over deeper water in front of our house. Within a week, we were standing where the boat had travelled so easily and put tip up lines through holes in the ice. Another Dead Lake season... another Dead Lake story.

Haley grew up in spite of me, not because

of me. She has since moved away and travelled the world. She is still young but very grown up. Coming to see me this fall and bringing a young man along whom she cares very much about. Says he is interested in hunting. Hmmm....

I have a new black dog now. Her name is Winnie. Molly is now where Jenny and “Pup” have been for lots of years. Winnie has potential but big paw prints to fill. She is black and would love nothing more than to bring a duck to me or “kiss” some peaches and cream. Less of both around here these days but Winnie has hope in her heart. I suppose I do too.

The way I see it, life is a series of decisions based upon educated guesses. Watching Haley leave for college or having her call me from Colombia or Spain or Scotland years after that perfect autumn, was a lot more nerve wracking for me than that cold November day when she was my

little girl. Now that I think about it. I had some control over the situation.

This evening...tonight. All alone. I look out over Dead Lake and think about how it has impacted my life. In motion or stillness. Dark, light, reflective...frozen. Always familiar but never the same. I hold hope that this November I am allowed to “listen to the bells” again, remember when I was “daddy” not “dad” and perhaps watch a black dog do amazing things if I shoot half ways decent.

I want to believe that my High School English teacher had some sixth sense by inserting that quote under my picture in the yearbook so long ago. It has served me well. “A ship in a harbor is safe...but that is not what ships are for”. One could substitute for ships...” little girls, middle aged dogs, old men”.

Dead Lake Historical Artifact SCUBA Dive Saturday, May 4

Have you ever wondered what sunken historical artifacts lurk below the surface of Dead Lake? Dead Lake has so much colorful history that has occurred on the land and lake shore surrounding the lake that there must be some very interesting items that are embedded in the lake bottom waiting for the curious SCUBA diver to discover.

Dead Lake resident, Roger Cullen, is a certified SCUBA diver and he has been planning to conduct some recreational dives in Dead Lake this spring to see if he can uncover some of the historical secrets that the lake is willing to share.

If you’re a certified SCUBA diver or would like to be a passenger in the boat and stay dry in the boat but have a burning curiosity to see what is on the bottom of Dead Lake, then you can join Roger in this adventure. During late April or early May, the lake water is the most clear that it will be all year so the timing of these



springtime dives is critical. Roger has an underwater camera that can allow you to be part of the dive and see the sunken treasures as they are found. You’ll never know what you’ll find until someone takes on the challenge to unlock Dead Lake’s underwater secrets.

If you would like to be a boat passenger or underwater diving partner and join Roger on this Dead Lake adventure, then contact Roger Cullen at 218-371-9620 or e-mail rcullen@prtcl.com and begin planning your Dead Lake adventure now.

shimmering black and silver scales appear like a rare black diamond as it suns itself atop the cool waters of one of Mother Nature's oldest creations. With this kind of ideal fishing experience, nothing could make it better except some friendly faces.



Dead Lake is home to not only many friendly locals but many friendly frequent visitors as well. Up in these parts of the country, inhabitants of the lake find it necessary to reach out to each other, no matter from where one might come. To the people who reside on or near the lake, those who choose to make Dead Lake their annual vacation spot, or even newcomers, it is imperative that being neighborly is of utmost importance. After all, the more the merrier, right? If people are shopping in one of Dead Lake's local towns, or seeking bait n' tackle at a nearby bait shop, there is no doubt that friendly service and a smile await the next customer that walks through those doors. The same goes for neighboring cabins. What more of an opportune time than to invite newly made friends over for a delicious smelling grill-out? That's right, Dead Lake's ability to bring people together from near and far add to its sentimental value. Who knows? After all, it is quite possible that any person experiencing this lake's fine quality of people intertwined with its natural beauty could very well leave with a friend for life.

Some might argue that anyone could walk out on any given day at any given location and see the sun shine or look up and see the stars just as clear. However, there is something extra special about the rays of the sun that shine over what lies beneath

them on Dead Lake. The air that fills the people's lungs is a soothing feeling. The hypnotizing sunsets are undeniable. They resemble the vibrant sea of coloring used in the Claude Monet masterpiece, "Sunset in Venice". While the days at Dead Lake come off as another paradise not known to many, the nights grasp and enfold

it, making it appear like a new version of an enchanted land. On a clear night, a person could look up and see stars so close as if all that was necessary to do was to reach up and grab a dozen in the palm of his or her hand. Gazing at the stars and the bright moon could almost engulf someone in a trance. It is as if the twinkling masses and big white, smiling sphere are secretly trying to initiate conversation. The mesmerizing sound of Dead Lake's lovely bird, the Loon, speaks in a language at night that not even the most non-naturist person could deny. The natural beauty of Dead Lake, no matter the form, is without a doubt, its sweet lullaby to all its residents, whether permanent or temporary. Dead Lake is a place where any person can experience vacation, nature, friends and family. The lake's location serves as an ideal place for those who need to get away or just want to try a new route in vacationing. The many fine qualities it possesses will appear right at the moment the people set foot on the lake, from beginning to end. Dead Lake's atypical vacation scenery, fun expeditions, endearing people, and a picturesque appeal, make it a destination spot that will leave any person with a newfound love, and more importantly, memories that will last a lifetime.

If you have a comment about Tanya's essay, you can contact her father, Gale Nore, at galenore@gmail.com.

FREE

Lakescaping and Rain Garden Seminar Saturday, April 27th Noon to 4:30 PM Thumper Pond Resort, Ottertail, MN 56571

You will learn from the pros and tour the exhibits as you discover how to solve your stormwater runoff problems in a beautiful and lake-friendly way.

Carrol Henderson, Minnesota DNR, and Lynn Steiner, author and photographer, will share their favorite tips and tricks to a high-pleasure, low-drudgery "green" solution for soil stabilization and stormwater control that will benefit both wildlife and water quality.

The seminar and exhibits are designed for the beginner and reluctant gardener, enthusiastic and master gardeners, those experiencing soil erosion, those needing hillside stabilization, those whose shoreline is a goose magnet and anyone that wants to attract beautiful birds and butterflies to their yard.

The Dead Lake Association has grant money available to defray most of the costs necessary to help you solve your stormwater runoff problem and to protect Dead Lake.

If you have questions, you can call Darren Newville, East Otter Tail Soil & Water Conservation District at 218-346-4260 ext. 110 or e-mail darren.newville@mn.nacdnet.net

What is Curly-Leaf Pondweed?

What is curly-leaf pondweed?

Curly-leaf is a submersed aquatic plant that is not native to North America. It generally grows in 3-10 feet of water. Curly-leaf tolerates low water clarity and will readily invade disturbed areas.

How can I tell if curly-leaf pondweed is in a lake?

Curly-leaf (see picture) is similar in appearance to many native pondweeds commonly found in Minnesota lakes and streams. It can be distinguished from other pondweeds by its unique life cycle. It is generally the first pondweed to come up in spring and dies back in mid-summer.

Where did curly-leaf pondweed come from?

Curly-leaf was first noted in Minnesota about 1910. It probably was accidentally introduced to the state when common carp were intentionally brought to Minnesota. Curly-leaf has been in Minnesota so long that most people do not realize that it is a non-native species.

Why is curly-leaf pondweed a problem?

In spring, curly-leaf pondweed can form dense mats that may interfere with boating and other recreation on lakes. Curly-leaf also can cause ecological problems because it can displace native aquatic plants. In mid-summer, curly-leaf plants usually die back, which results in rafts of dying plants piling up on shorelines, and often is followed by an increase in phosphorus, a nutrient, and undesirable algal blooms. Like other



**Curly-leaf Pondweed
first found in Minnesota in 1910**

Photo by Vic Ramey, University of Florida's Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants

aquatic vegetation, the abundance of curly-leaf varies from year to year depending on environmental conditions, such as winter snow depth, and spring water clarity, which can effect its growth.

How does curly-leaf pondweed spread?

Curly-leaf is believed to spread from one body of water to another primarily by the unintentional transfer of turions, which are hardened stem tips, on plant fragments carried on trailered boats, personal watercraft, etc.

What can be done to prevent the spread of curly-leaf pondweed?

The most important action that you can take to limit the spread of curly-leaf and other non-native aquatic plants is to remove all vegetation from your watercraft before you move it from one body of water to another.

What can be done about problems caused by curly-leaf pondweed?

Past experience in Minnesota and elsewhere has shown that eradication or elimination of curly-leaf pondweed from lakes is not a realistic goal. Nevertheless, problems caused by curly-leaf can be managed using available methods of control.

Short-term control of dense mats of curly-leaf that interfere with use of a lake can be obtained using contact herbicides or mechanical harvesting.

For information on regulations governing the use of herbicides and mechanical harvesting, please see the brochure entitled "Aquatic Plant Management: A lakeshore owner's guide to aquatic plant benefits and regulations for their control."

Over the past few years, there has been an increase in the number of lake residents and associations requesting assistance with problems caused by curly-leaf pondweed. More specifically, people want to know whether control can:

1. Reduce the lake-wide abundance of curly-leaf pondweed for long periods of time,
2. Increase the abundance of native submersed aquatic plants, and
3. Improve water quality by reducing peaks in concentrations of phosphorous, and associated algal blooms

In response, the DNR has increased its efforts to 1) provide technical assistance to lake residents and 2) evaluate new strategies for control of

curly-leaf pondweed. The evaluation of new methods has been focused on experimental lake-wide treatments of

curly-leaf, which are done early in the spring. Since these treatments require monitoring that is expensive in terms of both time and money, there are a limited number of them in Minnesota. Until the results from multi-year monitoring of current lake-wide treatments are available, it will remain unclear whether more such treatments should be undertaken.

More detailed information on experimental lake-wide treatments of curly-leaf pondweed may be obtained by reading the chapter on curly-leaf pondweed in the DNR's annual report on invasive species. This report can be found on the world wide web at: http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ecological_services/invasives/index.html. Alternatively, please call the DNR's Division of Ecological Services at 651-296-2835 or (888) MINNDNR to request a copy of this report or to discuss options for control of curly-leaf pondweed.



Curly-leaf pondweed growing to the water's surface

*Vermont, USA, photo by A. Bove,
Copyright 2002 Ann Bove*

Maintaining your Dead Lake Wood Duck Nesting Box

Now is a great time of year to do basic annual maintenance of your Dead Lake Association wood duck nesting box. Wood ducks will begin their migration back to Dead Lake in March. Simply inspect your wood duck nesting box to ensure that a squirrel hasn't jammed the nesting box full of sticks or that the box needs other maintenance! Also, fluff up or add new wood shavings (NOT saw dust) to the bottom of the box. This 4" to 6" of bedding is important because the hen wood duck doesn't carry nesting material to the box. If you have a wood duck nesting box that's mounted on a tree, consider removing it and mounting it on a wood or metal pole with a "predator guard". According to one study, the typical hatch is about 10 ducklings per nest. Duckling survival rate ranges from 22-41% and the primary cause of death is from predators. However, with proper nesting box mounting and predator protection, the survival rate may reach 60%-80%. Visit the Wood Duck Society web site to learn more about the predator guard at <http://www.woodducksociety.com/best-practices.htm>. You can make these guards yourself (as the Dead Lake Association did) or buy them through the Wood Duck Society.

If you have several wood duck houses on your property and some of them have been unproductive for more than two years, consider relocating them to a different spot.

Zebra Mussel...continued from pg 11

Roger Neitzke, president, LMKP-LID. "At present, there is no outlet in the area to alleviate this problem."

One of the conditions of outletting the water was that if any aquatic invasive species were found, the outlet (which has not been constructed yet) would be closed. This prompted the LMKP-LID to voluntarily test the lakes for zebra mussel veligers as a precaution, prior to construction.

As part of their protocol, RMB Labs contacted the DNR with the veliger findings. The samples were sent to the New York State Museum, which verified the presence of zebra mussel veligers. No adult zebra mussels were found after DNR biologists inspected hundreds of docks and boat lifts in these waters.

"At this time, we aren't sure where the adult zebra mussel population exists," said Nathan Olson, Minnesota DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist. "It is surprising that no veligers were found in water samples taken from Little McDonald Lake although it connects with the three lakes where veligers were found."

Although adult zebra mussels have not been verified, the DNR will take a precautionary approach by designating all four lakes as infested waters.

These recent discoveries reinforce the importance of practicing proper aquatic invasive species preventative

If you have a successful Dead Lake nesting this year, please let us know about it. It's nice to get feedback and pictures as a result of this conservation effort!

Dead Lake property owners received FREE wood duck nesting boxes

In 2008, the Dead Lake Association received a financial grant from the St. Paul Audubon Society to purchase 32 wood duck nesting boxes and many of them were installed by Dead Lake Association members, Jim Hatlevig and Spence Schram. The wood duck houses, mounting poles and installation were given to Dead Lake property owners for free. The wood duck nesting box package was valued at well over \$100 per installation. As a supplement to the grant purchases, there were an additional 18 wood duck houses purchased and installed which brought the project total to 50 nesting boxes.

The following is a list of the original Dead Lake property owners who received wood duck nesting boxes in 2008:

Donn & Laurel Anderson	Larry & Cheryl Ewer
Pat Martineau	Jon Skow
Jim & Sandy Batcha	Jeff & Sue Fowler
Tom & Amy Mielke	Brian Solum
Ralph & Susan Blake	Les & Sue Hansen
Ron & Sandy Neneman	Carl & Barb Soronen
Sally Bosch	Stacy & Marty Hart
Stan & Janet Oian	Tim & Terry Sullivan
Mike & Mary Bowman	Dean & Sherry Johnson
Donna Peterson	Barry Tanner
Maurice & Connie Busch	Mark & Joci Kerr
Don & Alma Reiten	Jim & Rhonda Tweeter
Ed & Mary Caputa	Leo & Barbara Kluch
Elaine Ressimyer	Donald & Deborah Wesenberg
Bill & Rachel Dahlin	Bernie & Marcia Koalska
Rick & Julie Saffrin	Dolores Kruger

methods. The DNR reminds folks to inspect all water-related equipment when it is removed from the water and report any suspected zebra mussel discoveries to the local DNR area office. Folks should also keep in mind that moving docks and boat lifts from one lake to another is another source of spreading aquatic invasive species. Boat lifts and docks are of particular concern because they sit in the water for extended periods, giving zebra mussels a greater opportunity to attach themselves.

State law requires all boat lifts, docks and swim rafts removed from any water body must remain out of the water (and dry) for 21 days before being placed into another water body in order to kill zebra mussels and other aquatic invasive species.



the
Dead Lake Association

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BOARD MEETINGS:

If you would like to attend the next board meeting please call 612.991.6230 for the place and time.

Editor: Kay Helm

Cabbage Kielbasa Skillet

Quick and easy and very tasty. (Courtesy Taste of Home Fresh and Easy cookbook)

- 1 large red onion, sliced
- 1 large green pepper, julienned
- 1 large red pepper, julienned
- 2 Tbsp butter
- 1 lb. smoked kielbasa or other sausage,
cut in 1-inch slices
- 1 pkg. (16 oz) coleslaw mix
- ½ C. chicken broth
- 1 tsp. garlic powder
- ½ tsp. pepper



In a large skillet or wok pan, sauté onion and peppers in butter until tender. Add remaining ingredients. Cook and stir for 6-8 minutes or until heated through. Yield: 4 servings. (I sometimes add sliced cashews or other nuts at the end for a little extra crunch. I also like to brown the sausage slices ahead of time.)

Dedicated to Clean Water

Website: www.dead-lake.org