LLA Letterhead



*July 7, 2015*

Dear Leech Lake Association Members:

The time has come to ask you to renew your Leech Lake Association membership for the coming fiscal year which begins in July at the time of our Annual Meeting. We sincerely request that you will renew your membership and continue to support our efforts to promote good fishing and protect Leech Lake for future generations.

You will note that we have increased our dues for a family membership from $20 to $30; the first such increase since 2001. The increased dues are to help cover some of the expenses for the projects we support. Projects such as boat inspections, AIS prevention efforts, as well as ongoing efforts to keep the Roosevelt Canal open to boat traffic are projects in need of your support. Fortunately, most of the work we do is performed by unpaid volunteers who give their time as well as their financial support to maintain Leech Lake in its relatively pristine condition. Some of our recent and/or active projects are cited below:

* The Leech Lake fishery advisory group hosted by the DNR - Our input is being used to develop the future 5 year plan (2016 – 2020) for all fish species and the lake habitat which includes continued protection of habitat areas along with a proposal on Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) on Leech Lake.
* Shingobee Pier – The Association acquired approval of a new handicap-accessible pier on Shingobee Island that will be installed in July 2015.
* Corps of Engineers Fishing Day – Provide volunteers and financial support to equip and instill in young people the enjoyment of fishing.
* Healthy Lakes/Natural Resources – Representation on AIS Boards which determine how state-approved monies will be spent. Also, heading up a committee to require AIS inspection and boat certification for Leech Lake fishing tournaments. Finally, the Association is financially sponsoring AIS inspections at public accesses again in 2015.
* Lake Safety – Buoy replacement, Roosevelt Canal dredging and graffiti paint-overs – all funded in whole or part by your Lake Association.
* Legislative/Rulemaking – Participating in zoning inspections of lakeshore developments and variance request applications for potential negative impact on lake or neighborhood development.
* Conservation/Shoreline – The acquiring or maintaining of Leech Lake shoreline for habitat purposes such as the Muskie spawning areas acquired by the DNR on Five Mile Point and Millers Bay. The Association was granted a Habitat Conservation Award for this activity.
* Website Development – The Association now has an official website! We are maintaining the website but are open to any changes you as members may like to see.

In addition to increasing the dues for family memberships from $20 to $30, we have increased the dues for a business membership from $30 to $50. The sponsorship level of $100, and the Lifetime membership level of $1000 remain the same.

To renew your 2015-2016 membership, please fill out the enclosed membership form and return it in the self-addressed envelope by or at the Annual Meeting and Picnic which will be held at the Lucky Moose in Walker on Thursday, July 30. Details on the meeting are provided in the enclosed flyer, and we invite you to attend. We need your support – now more than ever. We also invite you to attend any of our monthly meetings which are held the 3rd Monday of each month at 9:30 AM at the Cass County Courthouse.

Thank you in advance, and have a great summer.

Dave Laursen, Secretary/Treasurer

Leech Lake Association