

Leech Lake

ASSOCIATION

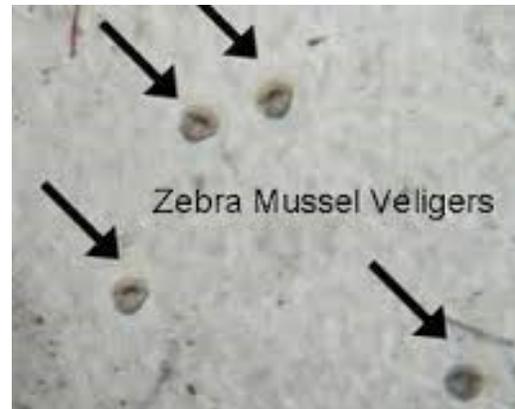


The Voice of Leech Lake

Our Mission: To be good stewards of Leech Lake and its environs, recognizing the vulnerability of the lake, and the need for citizens -- both individually and collectively -- to assume responsibility for its care.

Letter from the President,

As most of you know by now, zebra mussel veligers (tiny young) were discovered in Leech Lake during the summer of 2016 by DNR biologists doing routine zooplankton studies. While this discovery is unwelcome news, it was not totally unexpected. For several years now, perhaps due to intensive boat inspection efforts, Leech Lake has remained free of zebra mussels while our neighboring lakes (Cass, Winnie, Gull) have been affected for some time. Our objective from the beginning was to postpone infestation as long as possible to give our scientists time to come up with a means of control. The three or four years we gained by postponing infestation should be helpful in the long run. We should also point out that we should not abandon efforts to protect the lake because there are other nasty "invasives" on the way, such as spiny water fleas, which could possibly have even more effect on the Leech Lake fishery because they feed on zooplankton (*see image below*), the very bottom of the food chain.



the Leech Lake Association has hired RMB Environmental Labs to do water quality and algae testing on the lake for the next few years to determine trends and report findings to our membership. Water samples will be gathered monthly at various locations around the lake throughout the summer by Leech Lake Association volunteers. If any of you would like to participate in this effort, please let me or any of our board members know. Training will be provided, probably in early May.

The Leech Lake Association has also hired a contractor to dredge the north end of the Roosevelt Canal for the second time in the past two years to facilitate trouble free passage through the canal. Through ice and wave action, some rocks have moved into the canal which need to be removed. We are grateful to our members and your membership dues which allow us to take these actions. Wishing all of you a safe and enjoyable summer.

Robert Gisvold, President

IN THIS ISSUE

From the President.....	1-2
RMB Laboratories.....	2
Zebra Mussel Testing Device.....	2
DNR Fisheries Report	3-5
Leech Lake in Antiquity.....	6-7
US Army Corps Eng.....	8-10
Dredging Canal.....	11
Eel Pout Clean Up.....	11
Nongame Wildlife	12
Walker Area Events.....	13
Website/NEW Facebook!.....	14
Ads/Board of Directors.....	15
Thank You Sponsors.....	16

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 13th

Walleye/Northern/Bass
Fishing Season Opener

June 3-4

Leech Lake Walleye Tournament

June 22-24

Moondance Jammin Country

July 4

Fireworks - City Park

July 19-22

26th Moondance Jam

August 3

Leech Lake Association
Annual Meeting & Picnic

August 12-14

Leech Lake Regatta

August 17-19

Cajun Fest, Northern Lights Casino

September 8-10

Muskies Inc. Int'l Tournament

September 9

Ethnic Fest

September 16

Walker North Country Marathon



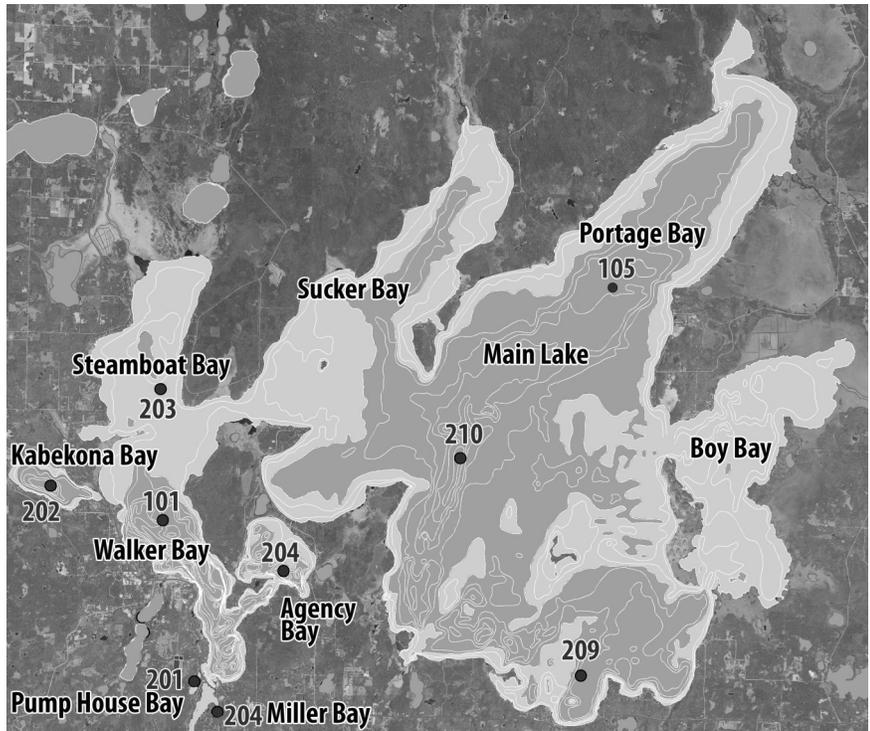
At any rate, it may be eight to ten years before we know the effect of zebra mussels on the Leech Lake fishery. We know already that in time the lake will become clearer. To determine other ways that zebra mussels might affect the lake over time,

RMB ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES TO MONITOR LEECH LAKE WATERS

The Leech Lake Association has retained RMB Labs to conduct water quality and algae testing on Leech Lake this summer and over the next few years to determine the affect of zebra mussels on Leech Lake waters and longer term effects on the fishery. Such testing will allow us to determine trends occurring on the lake over time, and what our response should be. This information should help the DNR in future decisions affecting the Leech Lake fishery (such as stocking decisions, slot limits, etc.)

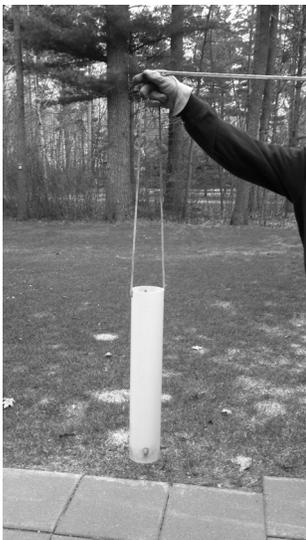
RMB Laboratories has been working with lakes in Minnesota for over 20 years and is recognized as an industry leader. Since 1998 they have facilitated the county's citizen monitoring program through the Association of Cass County Lakes, and in 2016 thirty-five different lakes in the county participated in their program. The Leech Lake Association will pay RMB Labs to test the water on a monthly basis throughout the summer. Leech Lake Association volunteers will collect the water samples; which will then be delivered to Detroit Lakes for analysis.

RMB Labs typically test lake waters for phosphorus, chlorophyll, and clarity. We have also asked them to add algae testing to the mix, which will be very important now that zebra mussels have arrived. Zebra mussels feed on algae which are at the bottom of the food chain. They compete for food with zooplankton which provides the main food source for newly



hatched fry. The effect of this disruption to the food chain over time is important to know. The DNR will continue its routine sampling of zooplankton twice during the summer. It was this testing last summer that revealed the presence of zebra mussel veligers.

The Leech Lake sites to be tested monthly this summer for water quality include Stony Point on the main lake, Agency Bay, Walker Bay, and Kabekona Bay. Water clarity studies using secchi disc readings will be taken on the above mentioned sites, plus several additional numbered places as shown in the nearby illustration.



INEXPENSIVE ZEBRA MUSSEL TESTING DEVICE

Those interested in testing for the presence of zebra mussel veligers in a harbor or around a boat lift can make use of the simple device shown in the photograph. The device consists of a piece of PVC pipe suspended on a rope and lowered into the water. As you feel inside the normally smooth pipe, the inside of the pipe will feel like sandpaper if veligers are present. Of course, the presence of adult zebra mussels will be perfectly obvious. The value of this early detection is that you can remove items from the water to which the mussels are attaching.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MN DNR FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACTIONS AND SURVEYS ON LEECH LAKE: 2016

Carl Pedersen, Large Lake Specialist, Walker Area Fisheries, Carl.Pedersen@state.mn.us (218) 547-1683
Doug Schultz, Area Supervisor, Walker Area Fisheries, Doug.W.Schultz@state.mn.us (218) 547-1683

STAFF CHANGES

- Carl Pedersen took over the Large Lake Specialist role in May from Matt Ward who relocated to Grand Rapids Area Fisheries.

YOUNG-OF-YEAR WALLEYE GROWTH AND ABUNDANCE

- July Seining: The average length (3.4 in) met the long-term average of 3.4 inches and the number sampled per acre (247) was above the long-term average of 70.
- August Trawling: The average length (5.1 in) was below the long-term average of 5.3 inches and the number sampled per hour (349) was above the long-term average of 162.
- September Electrofishing: The average length (6.4 in) was above the long-term average of 6.0 inches. Walleye recruitment is generally higher when mean September length exceeds 6.0 inches. The number sampled per hour (116) was similar to the long-term average of 100.

WALLEYE RECRUITMENT

Year class strength index values are determined from gill net catch of ages 1-3 and predicted for age-0 from gill net and trawl catch data (Figure 1). Incomplete values for 2014 (1.28) and 2015 (1.27) cohorts exceed the management plan objective threshold as does the 2016 predicted year class.

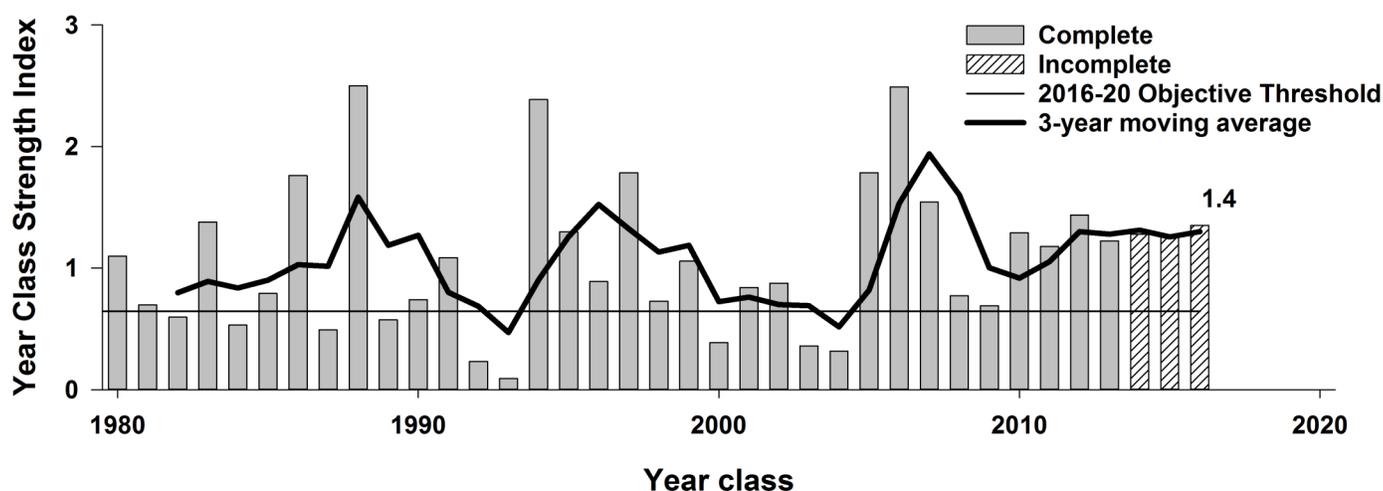


Figure 1. Year class strength index of Walleye in Leech Lake, 1980-2016. Year class fully recruited to the fishery and incomplete years included. The horizontal line represents the 2016-20 proposed management plan threshold based on the 25th quartile.

(DNR Report continued on page 4)

(DNR Report continued from page 3)

ADULT GAMEFISH ABUNDANCE

- Walleye gill net catch rates of 9.1 fish/net were down from the previous year but within the management objectives (Figure 2). Lengths of Walleye sampled ranged from 7 to 28 inches, and demonstrated a balanced size distribution. Seventy-eight percent of the sampled Walleye were outside of the 20-26” Protected Slot Limit and available for harvest (Figure 3).
- Yellow Perch abundance (9.4 fish/net) remains below average (20.7 fish/net) and was a record low. Perch up to 13” long were sampled.
- Northern Pike catch rates (3.9 fish/net) were below average (4.8 fish/net), pike up to 35 inches were sampled.
- Cisco catch rates (7.8 fish/net) were above the average of 5.4 fish/net, which will continue to provide predation relief to the Yellow Perch population.

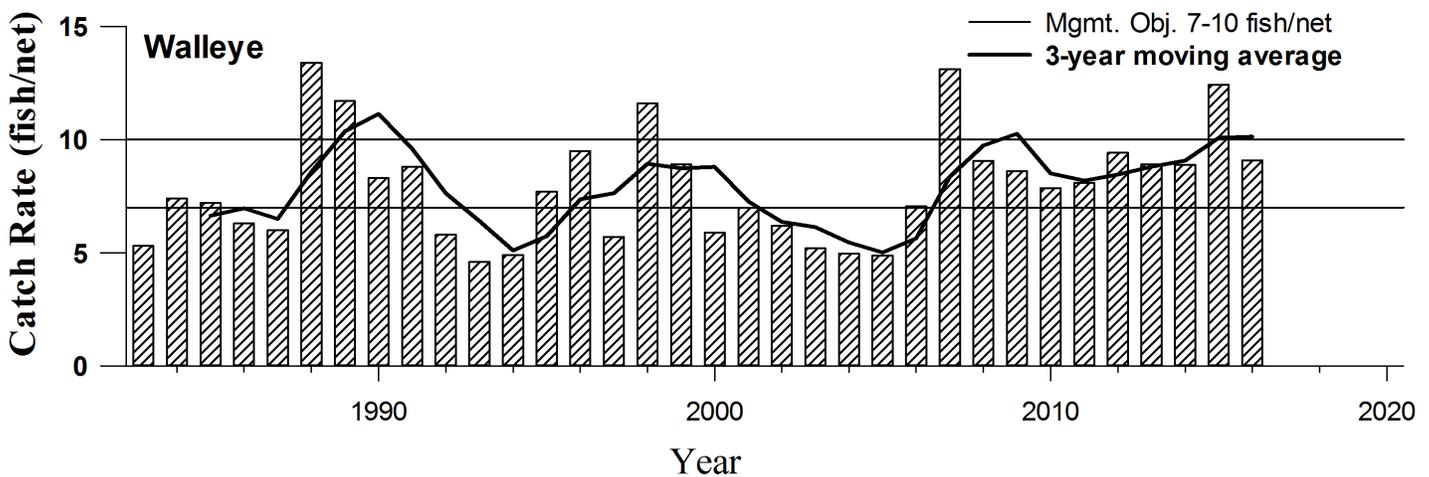


Figure 2. Gill net catch rates (fish/net) of Walleye in Leech Lake, 1983-2016. Horizontal lines represent the 2016-2020 Management Plan Objective Range. The darker line represents the 3-year moving average.

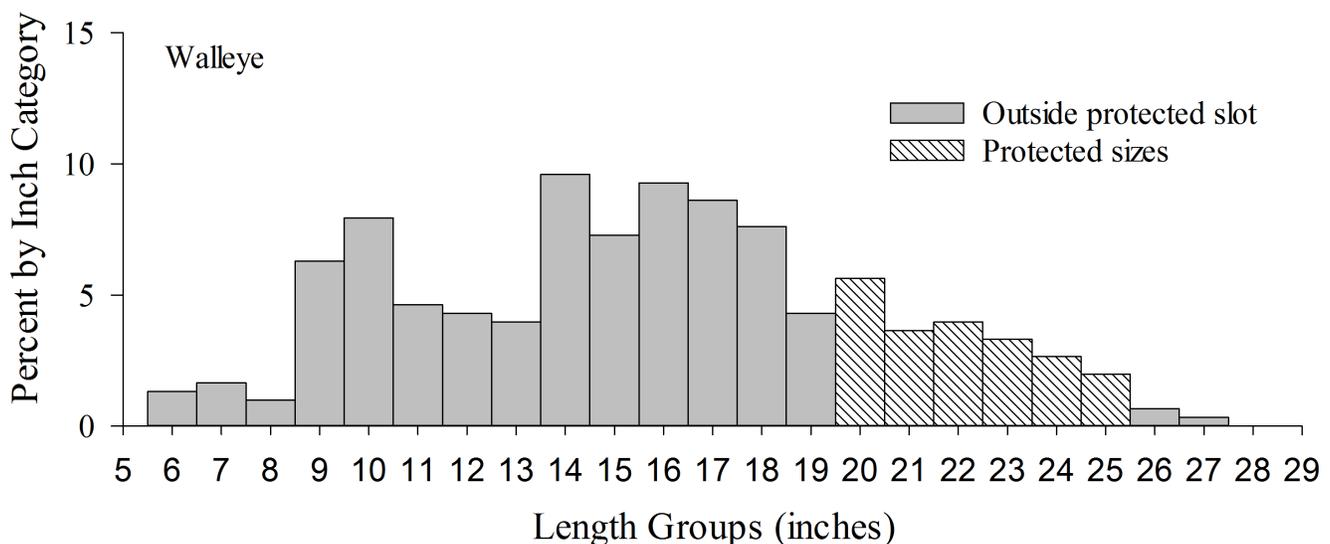


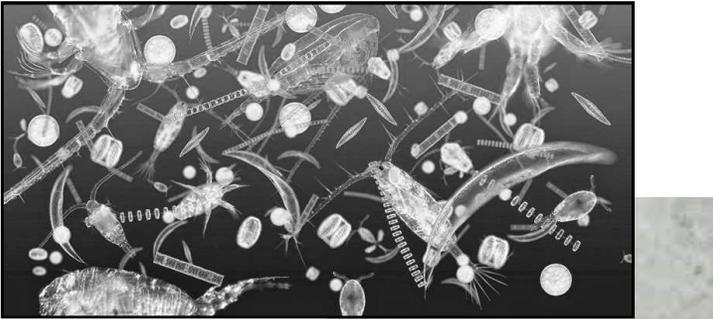
Figure 3. Length-frequency distribution of Walleye sampled with gillnets in Leech Lake, 2016.

(DNR Report continued on page 5)

(DNR Report continued from page 4)

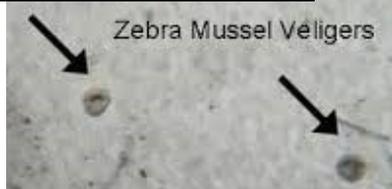
ZOOPLANKTON

- Zebra mussel veligers were found in two separate zooplankton samples on two different sampling days. To date no adult zebra mussels have been found. MNDNR Ecological and Water Resources staff plan to conduct a shoreline search following ice out.



CREEL SURVEY

- Winter: 2015-16 fishing pressure was slightly lower than the 2014-15 winter season (647,802 angler-hours) at 568,340 angler-hours due to ice conditions. Harvest of primary species was similarly reduced.
- Summer: 2016 fishing pressure was approximately 700,000 angler-hours and is similar to the two previous creel surveys (2011, 2014). Data analysis of catch and harvest statistics is ongoing.



LICENSE FEE PROPOSED INITIATIVE – 2017

- The primary source of funding for the Walker Area Fisheries Office comes from the purchase of fishing licenses and reimbursement from the federal excise tax on fishing equipment. Fishing licenses need periodic increases to support core fisheries operations to keep pace with inflation. The last general fishing and hunting license increase was in 2012.
- A license fee increase is being proposed that would increase Individual Angling licenses from \$22 to \$25 and include a \$15 fee for all fish houses (including wheeled fish houses) with the exception of portable/tent shelters.
- Failure to pass a fee increase in 2017 will have a direct negative effect on the management of Leech Lake. The 2016-17 winter and 2017 summer creel surveys have already been canceled.

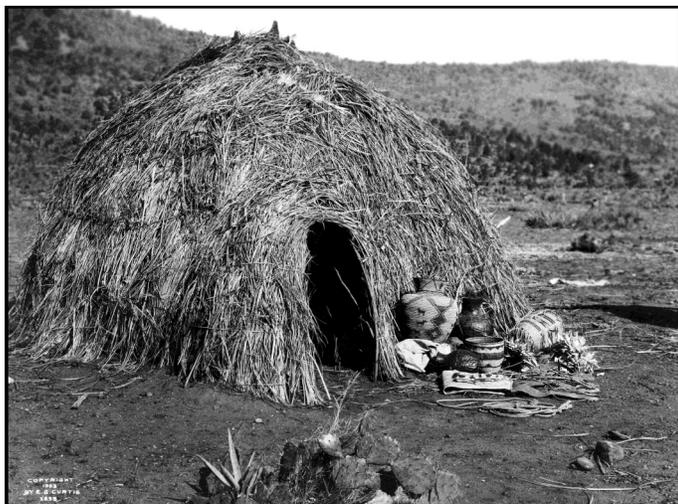
- The Walker Fisheries Office currently has 2 vacant full time Fisheries Specialist positions and we will not have interns for the 2017 summer sampling season due to budget shortfalls. This will result in reduced habitat work, increased response time for technical assistance and a decrease in the number of surveys we are able to conduct in 2017 and coming years.

SAMPLING PLAN – 2017 (PROPOSED)

- The winter creel for 2016-17 and summer 2017 creel surveys were canceled due to budget issues.
- Muskellunge spawn take operations are scheduled for early May. This takes place every 4 years on Leech Lake.
- Juvenile walleye and perch will be sampled by seining in July, trawling in August, and electro-fishing in September. Adult gamefish will be sampled with gillnets in September. Zooplankton will be sampled monthly from May through October. Water quality samples will be collected in July, and water temperatures are monitored hourly throughout the year.
- Adult zebra mussel searches will be conducted by Invasive Species staff at near-shore and mid-lake locations at various times throughout the summer.



LEECH LAKE IN ANTIQUITY



After the War of 1812 the Leech Lake area and northern Minnesota became part of Michigan territory, under the jurisdiction of its Governor, Lewis Cass. In 1820 an expedition under Cass traveled up the Mississippi to what is now Cass Lake, stopping there because they believed it to be the Great River's source. As the governor of this vast new territory, Cass had a keen interest in the land and its people and asked one of his Detroit acquaintances, the Honorable James Doty, to discover what he could about this new land. Judge Doty transmitted his findings to Governor Cass in a long letter dated September 27, 1820. The letter contains much of interest regarding life in the Leech Lake area nearly 200 years ago. It was previously published in the Cass Lake Times some 60 years ago. Excerpts from this letter will be included below:

James Doty writes: "In answer to your interrogatories, I have the honor of communicating with your Excellency. It was obtained from persons who have traveled over and resided in the country almost from their infancy. No opportunity was afforded of obtaining it from better or more enlightened sources than those involved and I think it may be relied upon as correct.

There are three chief places of residence of Indians in this country. The first and principal is Leech Lake, the next Sandy Lake, and third, Fond du Lac of Lake Superior.

At Leech Lake there are more than 200 men, at least 350 women married to them, and about 1100 boys and girls. Their hunting ground is around the lake, and extends north to Round Lake, west to the Red River, South to the Sioux (Elk River), and east until they meet the Indians of Sandy Lake. Their game is deer, bear, beaver, otter, muskrats, marten, fisher, raccoon and a few red and gray foxes. The only buffalo they kill is on the border of Sioux country. The beaver is hunted particularly on the river St Peters and its tributaries. A few are found in other parts. Most of the small rivers abound in otter. The other game is found throughout their country.

None of the western waters are as abundant in whitefish as Leech Lake. There are great numbers also in Lake Winnepec, Red Cedar (Cass), Cross (Winnebagoish), but the rivers are destitute of them. They are fine flavored and more delicious than those of the Sault of St Mary.

There are various other fish in these lakes and rivers as pike carp, black bass, cat-fish, etc. A fish called by the Indians too-nee-bee, and by the French, "telibeas" not equal to, but greatly resembling the white fish, is found in the large lakes above mentioned, and particularly in abundance in Leech Lake. The fish and the wild rice are the chief sustenance of the traders, and without them the trade could scarcely be carried on. The telibeas are taken in nets of from 60 to 100 fathoms long, late in autumn, and to preserve them, are hung up by the tail in the air until frozen. From July until November the white fish are taken, and the telibeas from the 1st of September to the latter part of November, at the setting in of the ice, and both on the same ground. Neither are taken in the winter; but from the 20th of May to the 20th of June, immense numbers of telibee are caught. During the winter, pike and pickerel may be obtained.

The waterfowls throughout this Northwestern country are nearly all the same. They are the bustard (cranes), wild goose, swan, pelican, loon, and several kinds of ducks. A fowl called the cormorant is found here. It lives on fish, is nearly the size of the raven, and of the same color; has a leg like a loon, a bill about four inches long shaped like a snipe's, except at the peak, which is rather crooked and sharp like an eagle's; It alights on the water and on trees, and it is said, roosts by suspending itself by the bill from a limb of a tree. The birds are nearly the same as those commonly found in the Eastern States.

(Leech Lake in Antiquity continued on page 7)

(Leech Lake in Antiquity continued from page 6)

The moose, elk, rein and common deer, wolf (not north of Sandy Lake), red and white ermine, wolverine, lynx, skunk, porcupine, woodchuck, and red striped squirrels are found in different parts of the country. There are many turtles of various sizes; some very large and delicious are found in the lakes. No rattle, or other snakes, except the small striped or garter snake.

The Indians of Leech Lake are in bands; and each band has its own chief. No general leader of the whole is acknowledged; but the Brachu who resides at Sandy Lake has, when he is present, some considerable influence over them. The chieftainship descends from father to son, and the line becomes extinct by the death of the last male, the females being entirely excluded. In filling vacancies they generally elect from the tribe the most valiant, brave and powerful of the man they deem the wisest or the most eloquent speaker, and this last qualification is considered essential and is generally preferred; and the person elected becomes the heir to all the honors of the old line. In fact, they always claim this right of election but it is occasionally dispensed with when some daring, bloody fellow, usurping the throne, holds, either by his ferocity, or his many and influential relations, his tribe in awe. Such a one, however, is soon casually disposed of if he does not in a short time ingratiate himself by some extraordinary act with the band. Even then he can scarcely be considered secure; for he is only respected, not loved; and is liable to be deposed at any time. Aware of this, he generally moves cautiously, deals severely.

The present chief of the Leech Lake Indians is Es-kee-buc-ec-ose, or Flat Mouth.; the regular chief at Sandy Lake, the Bras Casse, or Broken Arm; and the chief at Fond du Lac, Ghin-gwan-by, or as called by the French, "the Deaf Man." These are severally influenced by the Brachu, who it seems raises himself to this superior position merely by his eloquence. His ancestors have always been of good standing and for a time furnished chiefs for Sandy Lake. It appears that he is the first emperor of these tribes, they having been entirely distinct and independent prior to his time."

Editor's note: *Much of the remaining letter is devoted to wild rice harvesting, food sources,*

and other practices familiar to us. However, the preferred means of reaching Leech Lake was somewhat surprising.

The letter continues:

"There are two grand waterways to this country, one by Lake Superior and the Fond du Lac (St Louis) River, and the other by the Mississippi. The first is considered the most eligible route. It is about 1300 miles from St Louis to Sandy Lake, and 1050 from Detroit by water to the same place. There are many rapids in the Mississippi above the falls of St Anthony, which it is almost impossible to ascend with boats or canoes. The waters of this river are also considered unhealthy. On the other course, the greatest difficulty are found in the rapids of the Fond du lac River, but as this river is ascended only 150 miles, and the rapidity of the Mississippi continues for 600, and a strong current the residue, the difference in the exertion and fatigue between the two routes is very great. As the Fond du Lac River was ascended by you, there is no need to describe it. I will merely state that it arises in Vermillion Lake, is nearly 300 miles long, and that its general course is east. It may scarcely be called navigable above the Savannah River. The Savannah is 14 miles long and is ascended to its source."

Note: *From here Cass, and multitudes before him, portaged into the Prairie River via the notorious seven-mile long Savannah Portage and thence into Sandy Lake and the Mississippi, at which point he still had a long way to go upriver to reach Cass Lake.*



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

**US ARMY CORPS OF
ENGINEERS, ST. PAUL DISTRICT, LEECH LAKE**

On April 14th, 2017, the water elevation (level) on Leech Lake is 1294.20 feet. The current discharge from the dam is 300 cubic feet per second (CFS). All elevations are NGVD 1929.

A QUICK REVIEW OF OUR OPERATING LIMITS (NGVD 1929):

- Leech Lake desirable summer range: EL 1294.50ft - 1294.90ft.
- Normal winter drawdown target: EL 1293.20ft – 1293.80ft.
- Normal operating levels: EL 1293.20ft - 1295.70ft.
- Total operating limits: EL 1292.70ft - 1297.94ft. (This is an operating plan limit not capacity limit of the dam).
- Leech Lake Dam is operated for several purposes; Flood Damage Reduction, Tribal Trust, Environmental Stewardship, Recreation, and Navigation.



Spring and summer 2016 provided almost perfect delivery of rain, sunshine, heat, etc. - A little something for everyone and Leech Lake water levels reacted by keeping in the summer desirable range. I remarked several times during 2016 “This is the least amount of effort I’ve ever had to impose to artificially manipulate Leech Lake to achieve the goals of the congressionally approved water control plan”.

Then came Thanksgiving, 2016 and it changed in a big way. We received about two inches of rain and wet snow from mid-November thru early December. Much of this moisture transitioned our watershed from relatively normal to wet conditions. The operating trend changed from what looked like a predictable slow winter drawdown to a rapid rise in lake level that bounced way up into the desirable summer range.

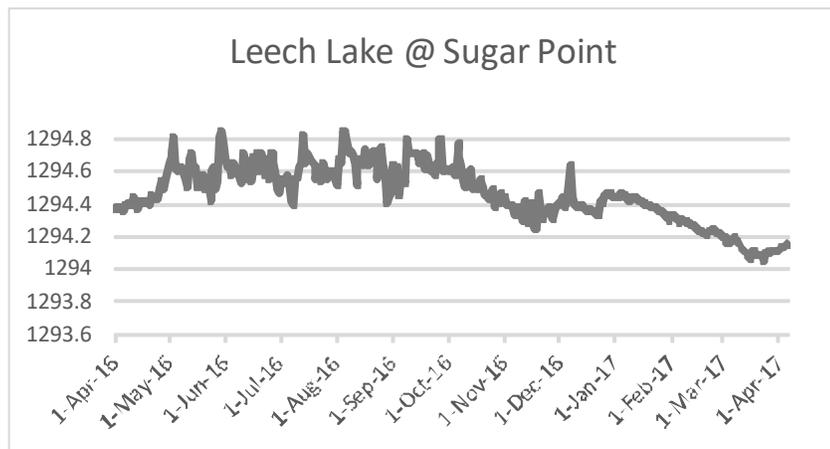
Winter 2017 became challenging. Moisture levels throughout the Headwaters became worrisome in regards to spring runoff and flooding. Mississippi River channel capacity in the Ball Club/Deer River area is only about 2200 cfs. The total combined outflow of Winnie and Leech cannot exceed that without causing flooding forcing the two dams to coordinate outflow and “race” time to achieve adequate drawdowns. During February the outflow to LL-Dam was over 1,250 cfs as compared to the minimum outflow requirement of only 120 cfs during dry conditions. November thru February delivered well above average precipitation and we were concerned about the National Weather Service prediction for that trend to continue thru spring 2017. However Mother Nature decided to “buck the trend” by slowing precipitation to below average for March and so far in April (as of 4/14/2017) resulting in Leech Lake and the Headwaters advancing from winter to spring with very favorable water level conditions.

Going forward Leech Lake water levels will once again rise to desirable summer levels if we receive about average rain amounts during April and May. As always; the actual lake level will fluctuate in accordance with how much precipitation we receive, how widespread it is, and downstream conditions that may affect our ability to regulate water levels.

(US Army Corps of Engineers continued on page 9)

(US Army Corps of Engineers continued from page 8)

SEE THE LEECH HYDROGRAPH BELOW FROM APRIL 2016 to APRIL 2017:



OPERATION SUMMARY CORRELATING TO THE LEECH LAKE WATER LEVEL HYDROGRAPH:

- **Note the difference in daily fluctuations in summer months from wind and waves compared to winter months when the lake is frozen.**
 - ▶ **Apr 2016:** Leech slowly rebuilding as it retains spring run-off.
 - ▶ **May 2016:** Leech is ice free/back into the desirable summer range. Wind and waves affecting gage.
 - ▶ **Jun - Sep 2016:** Leech staying within the desirable summer range.
 - ▶ **Oct 2016:** Winter drawdown occurring.
 - ▶ **Nov - Jan 2017:** Leech Lake rises due to above normal precipitation.
 - ▶ **Jan – Apr 2017:** Rapid draw-down occurring.
 - ▶ **Apr 2017:** Leech Lake rising from spring runoff.

LOOKING FORWARD

Spring 2017 began at a rapid pace in Minnesota. The first week of March was four to six degrees above normal and, with the already thinning ice across southern Minnesota, many lakes lost their ice at the end of the first week of March. Winter made a bit of a comeback with below normal temperatures from March 9th to the 16th. In a rare occurrence, many lakes that were thawed in southern Minnesota refroze. Warmer conditions returned for the last week of March and the progress of spring resumed. With the snow-free landscape and the above normal temperatures, soil temperatures have been on the rise across the state.

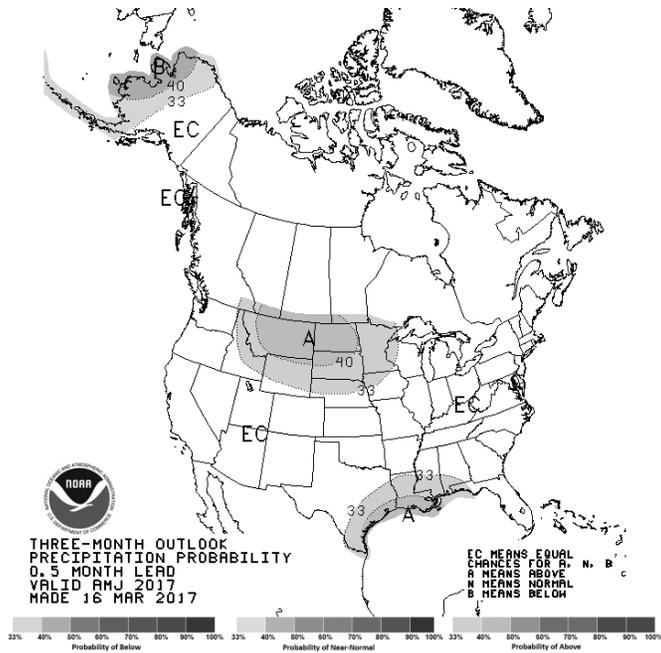
The EL NIÑO/SOUTHERN OSCILLATION (ENSO) diagnostic discussion issued by the Climate Prediction Center/NCEP/NWS and the International Research Institute for Climate and Society released on 13 April 2017: Enso-Neutral Conditions are favored to continue through at least the northern hemisphere spring 2017, with increasing chances for EL NIÑO development by late summer and fall.

(US Army Corps of Engineers continued on page 10)

(US Army Corps of Engineers continued from page 9)

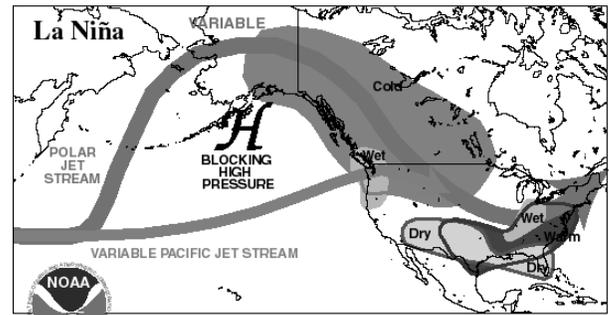
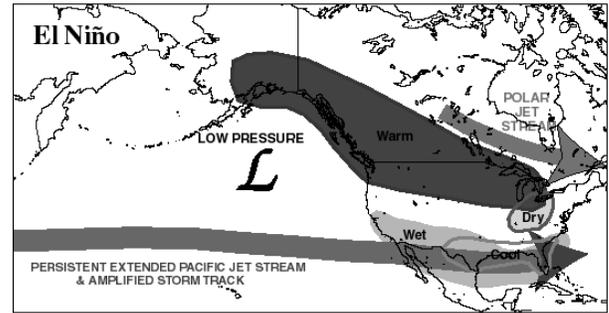
The 90-day precipitation outlook for April to June, 2017, provided by the National Weather Service (NWS) Climate Prediction Center (CPC), tilts toward slightly above normal conditions across north Central Minnesota:

feature a very wave-like jet stream flow over the United States and Canada, with colder and stormier than average conditions across the North, and warmer and less stormy conditions across the South. See El Niño and La Niña maps below for more information:



The 90-day temperature outlook for April to June, 2017, provided by the National Weather Service (NWS) Climate Prediction Center (CPC), tilts toward normal conditions across north Central Minnesota:

TYPICAL JANUARY-MARCH WEATHER ANOMALIES AND ATMOSPHERIC CIRCULATION DURING MODERATE TO STRONG EL NIÑO & LA NIÑA



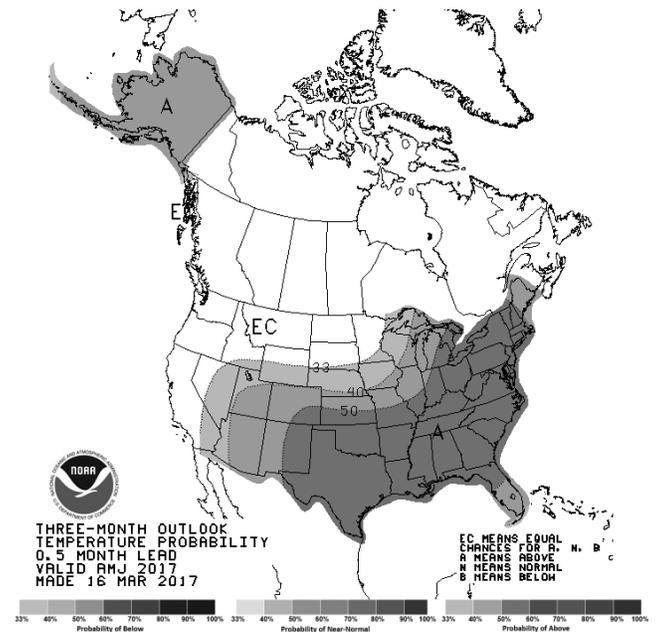
Climate Prediction Center/NCEP/NWS

LEECH LAKE DAM

Leech Lake Dam is located on the North East corner of Portage Bay and forms the Leech Lake River. The Leech flows into the Mississippi south of US HWY 2 downstream of the MN DNR Mud/Goose Wildlife Management Area. The Corps of Engineers provides recreation facilities such as boat ramps, campgrounds, picnic areas, trails and other services within the grounds at Leech Lake Dam. Check us out and click on “recreation” at www.mvp.usace.army.mil

MORE INFORMATION

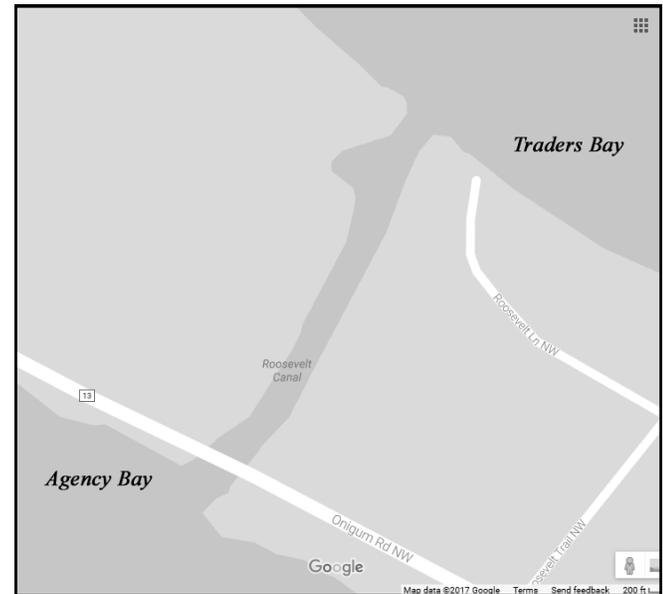
You can visit the Corps of Engineers Water Control, Web site at <http://www.mvp-wc.usace.army.mil> and <http://rivergages.mvr.usace.army.mil/WaterControl/shefdata2.cfm?sid=LEEM5&d=7&dt=E> for more information on the regulation of Leech Lake Reservoir. For questions or if you would like to comment regarding how lake levels are affecting you please email: tim.v.rennecke@usace.army.mil



During winter, El Niño episodes feature a strong jet stream and storm track across the southern part of the United States, and less storminess and milder-than-average conditions across the North. La Niña episodes

DREDGING OF ROOSEVELT CANAL

Inspection of the Roosevelt Canal this spring reveals that some additional deepening is required on the north end of the canal (Traders Bay side). Wind and ice action have pushed some rocks into the channel which must be moved to help avoid running aground and prop damage. Working with the Cass County Sheriff and the Leech Lake Tribe, the Leech Lake Association has contracted with Ryan Bruns to do the necessary dredging prior to the opening of fishing season. Since the canal is on tribal land, The Leech Lake Association will work with the Tribal Land Office to obtain the necessary permits.



LEECH LAKE ASSOCIATION GETS INVOLVED IN EEL POUT FESTIVAL CLEAN-UP



This past January the Leech Lake Association responded to member concerns regarding previous poor post festival clean-up.

LLA Board members worked diligently behind the scenes with Cass Co. Environmental Services Director John Ringle, Cass Co. Sheriff Tom Burch, Cass Co. Commissioner Scott Bruns, City Sanitary Service owner Dan Ehrke and Event owner Jared Olson. Thank you to all involved!



The LLA recommended contracting with the outside group “TVG Events” for lake clean-up and paid for by the Event owner. City Sanitary Services provided the excellent service they are noted for, by hauling all garbage away from the designated off-ice locations. We are proud of the positive results.

Cass County Environmental Services is pleased with the cooperation of all involved. Walker Bay was cleaned up continually each day with final cleaning on Monday morning.

Next year we are looking forward to some more improvements. According to “TVG Events”, 80% of the waste could have been separated for recycling. Also some ice houses stayed on the lake past the event closing and then left waste on Walker Bay when departing.

The LLA board members are confident that a good precedent has been set and will continue to be improved.



NONGAME WILDLIFE PROGRAM IN NORTHWESTERN MINNESOTA

Nongame Wildlife Program staff were quite busy in 2016 with efforts to protect, promote and enhance Minnesota's nongame resources. Here are just a few of our activities from the past year.

- Numerous presentations to citizens on topics such as landscaping for pollinators, wildlife on your lake, salamanders, and managing wetland habitats for rare species.
- A variety of surveys including common tern surveys on Lake of the Woods, water bird surveys at the North Ottawa Impoundment, a man-made flood damage reduction impoundment near Tintah, MN, and butterfly and tiger beetle surveys at the Badoura Jack Pine Woodland Scientific and Natural Area.
- Coordination of the annual Minnesota Loon Monitoring Program, where citizens have been monitoring loons for over 20 years on pre-identified lakes to assess the loon population!

Nongame Wildlife Program works with wildlife species that are not hunted, fished or trapped, including birds, bees, butterflies, frogs, bats and many more! It is a citizen-funded program, where the majority of funding comes from donations provided on tax forms (either look for the loon drawing or "Nongame Fund" on your tax forms).



**CLOUDED SULPHUR BUTTERFLY
ON RED CLOVER**



FESTIVE TIGER BEETLE



COMMON BUCKEYE BUTTERFLY



WATERFOWL AT NORTH OTTAWA IMPOUNDMENT



Walker Area Events

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 13th

*Walleye/Northern/Bass
Fishing Season Opener*



June 3-4

Leech Lake Walleye Tournament



June 22-24

Moondance Jammin' Country



July 4

Parade/Fireworks – City Park

July 19-22

26th Moondance Jam

August 3X 02 2017

*Leech Lake Association
Annual Meeting & Picnic*

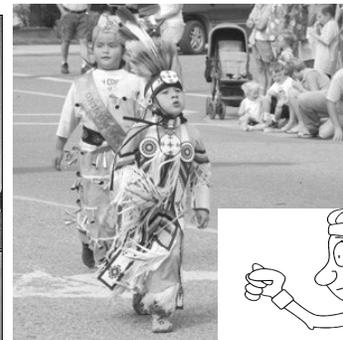


August 12-14

Leech Lake Regatta

August 17-19

Cajun Fest, Northern Lights Casino



September 8-10

Muskies Inc. Int'l Tournament

September 9

Ethnic Fest

September 16

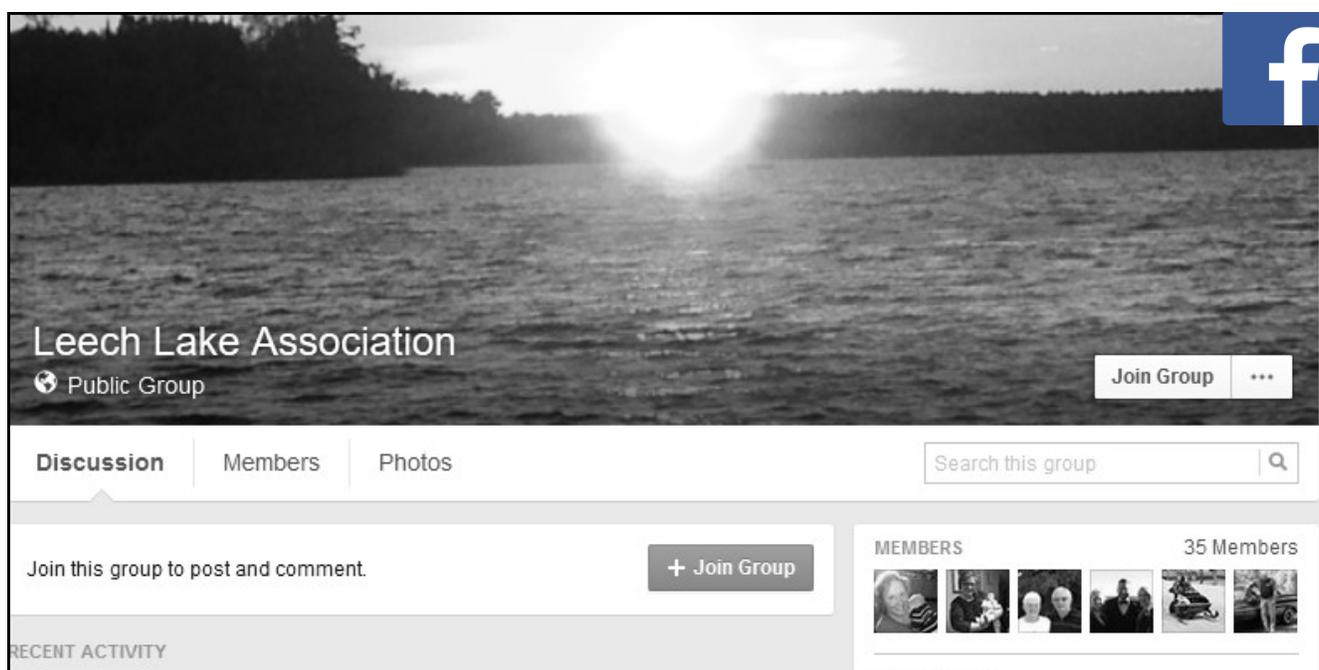
Walker North Country Marathon





We are so pleased to offer you this enhanced website where we are able to share our mission, committee reports, area calendar of events, current news, membership information, our history, photo's, area maps, links, meeting minutes, feedback and contact information. In the future we will be adding fishing reports and other valuable area information.

As part of the Association's efforts to communicate to our members we have also created a Facebook site. For those of you using Facebook you can go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/LeechLakeAssociation/> and request to join. As soon as you are approved you will have full access to the site. We look forward to seeing you there!





PLEASE RECYCLE

Recycling is an important way for us to conserve energy, reduce waste in our landfills and conserve our natural resources for many years to come. Please take a moment to recycle that water bottle, aluminum can, or glass spaghetti jar

instead of tossing it into the garbage. Our earth will thank you for it.



For more information go to <http://www.environment-green.com/>



Costs for printing and distribution of the summer edition of the LLA Newsletter have been donated by the First National Bank of Walker, and Hummingbird Press.

BOARD MEMBERS

- Steve Mortensen, Conservation.....335-7421
scmort@blackduck.net
- John Eaton, Healthy Lakes.....547-4011
eatonjg@arvig.net
- Jeff Brockberg, Lake Safety.....507-227-9927
brckjpb@earthlink.net
- Bob Poirier, Legal612-916-3967
thepoi@charter.net
- Gail Tufte, Zoning 547-2989
monarda@aol.com
- Pat Mortale, Website547-1045
apmortale@live.com
- Bill Schultz, AIS Prevention.....612-599-8742
william.schultz1@comcast.net
- Ray Gold, Sustainability547-8663
goldpine@arvig.net
- Tom McGovern612-306-9586
tommcgovern2@gmail.com
- Mike Seivert712-348-2834
joleen.seivert@gmail.com

LEECH LAKE ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

- Bob Gisvold, President.....547-1450
gisvold@kwgc-law.com
- Dave Laursen, Secretary/Treasurer547-2832
dlaurs@arvig.net
- Ray Gold, Vice President.....547-8663
goldpine@arvig.net

LLA PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

- Dave Laursen, Editor..... 547-2832
.....dlaurs@arvig.net
- Cathy Denker,..... 612-310-3498
Composition/Designcathy.bewell4life@gmail.com

LEECH LAKE BAND REPRESENTATIVE

- Steve Mortensen.....335-7421
scmortensen@lldrm.org



Thank You, Sponsors

We are very grateful to all those who have chosen to become or remain sponsors of the Leech Lake Association (\$100 and above). Your generous donations, plus the annual dues of all our members, allow us to continue our mission of protecting Leech Lake and environs. A special thank you to:

2016-2017 SPONSORS:

- J. Richard & Mary Beth Simpson, Chanhassen, MN
- Dan & Shirley Sheldon, Chanhassen, MN
- James & Nina Palubicki, Fosston, MN
- LeRoy & Marilyn Radermacher, Jordan, MN
- Oak Point Homeowners Association
- Jeff Hagen, Cold Spring, MN
- Jack Szczepek, Charlotte, NC
- Robert & Nita-Eagle Frink, Rock Island, IL
- Richard Tiedeman, Walker, MN
- Ann & R.I. Burns, Jr, Edina, MN
- Jim & Susan Osberg, Eden Prairie, MN
- Brian & Karla Myres, Clear Lake, MN
- Carl & Mary Schroeder, St Paul, MN
- Tom & Mary Peterson, Walker, MN
- Richard & Barbara Burrock, Eden Prairie, MN
- Ron & Sharon Palmer, Agency Bay Lodge
- John Schuett, Long Lake, MN
- Bill & Nina Schultz, North Oaks, MN
- Kathy Bieloh, Walker, MN

- Roger & Connie Underwood, Ames, IA
- Richard & Shirley Olson, Garden Grove, CA
- Jeff & Holly Parker, Eden Prairie, MN
- Brian Evans, Gilbert, AZ
- Mike & Joleen Seivert, Hartley, IA
- Jim & Carla Fossum, Brainerd, MN
- Ross & Belinda McGinty, Maple Plain, MN
- David Wood, Lincoln, NE
- Delinsky, John, Sartell, MN
- Pelletier, Randy, Princeton, MN
- Prof, Robert, Plymouth, MN
- Chris & Mary Thurin, Northfield, MN
- Dorothy Timmons, Walker, MN
- Dennis & Dianna Troje, Walker, MN
- Blair & Sharon Witt, Walker, MN
- Ottertail Point Homeowners Association
- Scott & Cindy Peterson, Sparks, NV

LIFETIME MEMBER (\$1000 OR MORE)

- Dale & Harriet Jones, Walker, MN
- Robert Eddy, Big Lake, MN
- Robert & Patty Gisvold, Walker, MN
- Bob & Mary Sue Poirier., Walker, MN
- Pat & Connie Mortale, Walker, MN
- Jeff & Debra Brockberg, Pipestone, MN



A special
welcome to all
our new
members, and
to all of you
who have
continued to
support us over
the years as the
walleye fishery
has recovered.



Leech Lake Association
PO Box 1613
Walker, MN 56484

Forwarding Service Requested

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
WALKER, MN
PERMIT NO. 5