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UPCOMING EVENTS

August 19

*Cabin Succession Planning:
Leaving A Legacy*

September 9-10

19th Annual Ethnic Fest

September 9-11

Muskies Inc. Tournament

September 17

28th North Country Marathon

November 25

Festival of Lights

December 15

LLA Christmas Party

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,

The threats! They keep on coming. Globalization may be a wonderful thing, but it's bringing us most of the world's pests. Some are here. Others are on our very doorstep. Just when we thought we were successfully dealing with most of the threats facing Leech Lake, new ones emerge. Today,



we have tougher zoning regulations, fewer failing sewers, better fishing, stricter wetland and spawning bed protections.. But now we have the invasive Zebra Mussel threat which might make our sand beaches the equivalent of walking barefoot on burning coals. We are presently working with the DNR and other Lake Associations to take whatever steps we can to keep these nasty critters out of our lake. It may not be possible. They may be here already. If not, the longer we can delay their arrival the better chance for scientists to find a way to deal with an infestation.

I can report also that the DNR has completed its mapping of Leech Lake's sensitive shoreland areas which identifies unique or critical fish or wildlife habitat where development or land alteration would have

a particularly negative effect on lake ecology. Paula West, of the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation, and myself, recently sent a letter to owners of some of the larger parcels of sensitive lakeshore to ascertain interest in controlling future development on their properties through protective conservation easements. The Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation: (www.leechlakewatershed.org) will answer questions and assist any property owner so interested.



We are also updating our award-winning Leech Lake Management Plan which was published in 2005 after a survey of all Leech Lake property owners. The plan identified key issues on the lake that needed immediate attention, and also established a long-term vision for the lake. Many of the issues (poor fishing, cormorants, etc) have since been addressed, and the Plan needs to be rewritten to deal with newer threats and update our vision for the lake over the next five years

I want to thank all of you who attended our Annual Picnic at Horseshoe Bay on July 28, and particularly, our speaker, Paula West, who spoke so eloquently on the subject of Lake Stewardship. I encourage all of



you, who have not yet paid your dues for fiscal year 2011-2012 to please do so. And we thank each and every one of you for your continued financial and moral support.

Robert Gisvold, President





Exciting NEWS!

LLA HAS AN UPDATED WEBSITE

Now you will have updated LLA information right at your finger tips when you log on to:
www.minnesotawaters.org/group/leech/home. Save this under your favorites today!




The Voice of Leech Lake

Engaging in all activities necessary to preserve the environment of Leech Lake and the surrounding watershed.

WELCOME
PRESIDENT'S LETTER
MANAGEMENT PLAN
EVENTS
PROJECTS
BOARD MEMBERS
MEMBERSHIP
LINKS
CONTACT US

Welcome to the....



...Website!

Our mission is to provide stewardship of Leech Lake and its environs, to preserve and continue the viability of Leech Lake as vital to area residents, vacationers, seasonal residents, sportsmen, lovers of nature and the entire community.

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This Leech Lake Association website is hosted by Minnesota Waters, as part of its mission to help citizens protect and improve our lakes and rivers. Minnesota Waters spreads the water conservation message by providing cost effective website hosting for many citizen groups working toward the same purpose.

One of our LLA members, Phil Matthews, volunteered his time and talents to do the task of updating the website. He is now retired but formerly employed by Caterpillar, Peoria, IL, as an Engine Engineer and later as an Informational Technician. We are very fortunate to have him aboard, as he is very experienced and knowledgeable in computers. His family has been coming to the Leech Lake area since the early 50's and now lives here as a permanent residence.

Our LLA website is hosted by Minnesota Waters. We find it very cost effective and much simpler to edit and update than a stand-alone website. The procedure to access our hosted website is as follows:

- 1) Go to "www.minnesotawaters.org"
- 2) Click on "LAKE and RIVER Groups"
- 3) Under "View By County" select "Cass"
- 4) Scroll down and click on "Leech Lake Association"
- 5) You are now at the site. Click on any "menu" topic on the left side.

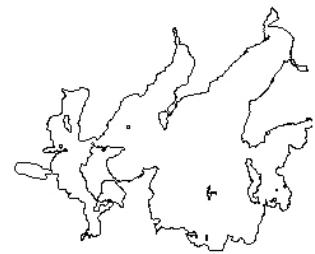
You can now find our membership form on the website too. We plan to continue to expand and update our LLA Website; possibly including our newsletter, meeting minutes, etc. We will keep you informed. In addition, the LLA email address noted on the Website will go to Dave Laursen, LLA Secretary and Newsletter Editor.





LEECH LAKE UPDATE

Walker Area Fisheries Office
07316 State Highway 371 NW
Walker, MN 56484
(218) 547-1683



Greetings!

This update is part of a series of reports the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is sending to Leech Lake area resorts, businesses and others interested in DNR activities on Leech Lake. The goal of these messages is to keep you up to date with our findings and current activities on the lake. Earlier updates are available by visiting <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/areas/fisheries/walker/index.html>. Feel free to contact our office if you have any questions or comments, would like copies of previous updates not posted on the website, or if you would like to be added to the mailing list.

Recent Changes

- Harlan Fierstine, Area Fisheries Supervisor, retired in December, 2010. Since that time Scott Gustafson has been appointed the Acting Area Fisheries Supervisor. Scott can be reached at the address above or at scott.gustafson@state.mn.us.
- To ease the transition process until Harlan's position is permanently filled, Doug Schultz, Large Lake Specialist, is handling nearly all items related to Leech Lake and is the primary contact on such topics. Scott is the contact for all other requests not related to Leech Lake.
- The state shutdown has impacted local workloads. Seining on Leech Lake was cancelled for 2011, as three of the four weeks used for standardized sampling were enveloped by the shutdown. In addition, lake surveys originally scheduled for Little Boy, Pine Mountain, and Wabedo lakes were also cancelled for 2011.

Remaining 2011 Survey Work on Leech Lake

- With shoreline seining cancelled for 2011, additional trawling will take place during the week of August 8 to obtain young-of-year walleye for OTC examination. These are the fish used to determine what proportion is marked (stocked) and to estimate the natural hatch rate. Usually about half of the needed YOY sample size for OTC detection is obtained by seining.
- Standard trawling will be conducted during the weeks of August 15 and August 22.
- The annual gill net survey will be completed from September 5-16.
- As in other years, volunteers are welcome to assist. Contact Doug Schultz (doug.w.schultz@state.mn.us) if interested.

(DNR Report continued on page 4)

(DNR Report continued from page 3)

2011 Operational Plans

- With volunteer assistance, 22.0 million walleye fry were stocked from 19 May to 22 May, 2011 (right). Fry were distributed throughout all major bays; bay-specific amounts were determined based on proportion of total littoral acres ($\leq 15\text{-ft. deep}$).
- Under the supervision of the Division of Resource Management, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, double-crested cormorant control continued again in 2011 to the management goal of 500 nesting pairs.

Area	Total Stocked
Main Lake	
Whipholt/Stoney Point	5,094,242
Boy/Hdqtr's Bay	4,038,797
Sucker/Trader's	5,549,703
Portage Bay	3,588,216
Western Bays	
Steamboat Bay	2,035,841
Walker Bay North	1,080,824
W. B. S and Agency Bay	518,489
Kabekona Bay	115,220
Grand Total	22,021,332



If you have questions, comments, or requests please contact:

Doug Schultz (doug.w.schultz@state.mn.us)
or
Scott Gustafson (scott.gustafson@state.mn.us)



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
St. Paul District
Leech Lake Dam

rain event. The narrow desirable summer range is 1294.50 to 1294.90. All elevations are referenced in 1929 NGVD.



The last 12-months have contributed well above average precipitation allowing the area to rebound from drought effects of the last few years. In fact the conditions of last winter spurred the largest drawdown of Leech Lake in many years. In spring, the city of Aitkin reached flood stage of 12 feet. That meant the upper reservoirs, Big Sandy, Pokegama, Leech and Winnibigoshish, all needed to limit their outflows to prevent severe flooding in Aitkin. When operating the reservoirs for flood control at Aitkin each of the reservoir's levels are monitored along with the stage at Aitkin. A spring guide curve has been developed that, when followed, the damages at the reservoirs are balanced with the damages at Aitkin. Operating the Headwaters Reservoirs is a system-wide operation and each event can produce different results, so the guide curve is used to help, but can not always be followed. Thanks to the draw down performed prior to snow melt, Leech Lake was able to perform its flood control storage duties without harshly exceeding the top end of its desirable summer range.

WHAT IS THE “DESIRABLE SUMMER RANGE”?

Leech Lake has several different operating limits and targets contained within its operating plan. These limits and ranges vary in accordance with climate conditions and time of year. For example, the desirable summer range of 1294.50 to 1294.90 is simply a desirable target that we strive to achieve within the total operating limit of 1292.70-1297.94. Last winter Leech Lake was drawn down to 1293.80 to make room for spring run off and flood water storage. Why 1293.80 and not further

**LEECH RESERVOIR
WATER LEVELS**

As of July 28th, 2011, the water level on Leech Lake is 1294.71 feet. The current discharge from the dam is approximately 650 cfs. Dam operations for August are biased towards lower discharges unless we receive a substantial

down? Winter conditions are monitored throughout the watershed. Data includes snow depth, water content, frost depths, ice thickness, daily snow fall amounts with moisture content, ground water conditions prior to freeze-up, and observations of conditions between survey sites for uniformity. All that data is then considered in regards to historical and predicted climatological data. If too much drawdown is performed without enough moisture content within the watershed; Leech would not attain its minimum desirable summer level in spring simulating drought effects. Conversely, not enough drawdown would cause high water.

WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN?

Sometimes the climate simply exceeds the operating ability of the dam and downstream river capacity causing Leech Lake to suffer from above or below levels of the desirable summer range. Nature ultimately still has control; we can only manipulate it a little bit and so far in 2011 we've accomplished that. Please see the hydrograph (page 6) for more information.

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.



(CORPS Report continued on page 6)

(CORPS Report continued from page 5)

CORPS OF ENGINEERS KIDS FISHING DERBY



The 21st Annual Kids' Fishing Derby was held below Leech Lake Dam Saturday, July 16th and drew 192 participants under the age of sixteen. This was the largest turnout ever recorded for the event. Twenty-six volunteers, including COE staff, contributed their time as well as preparation spent during the weeks leading up to the event. Forty five businesses made donations, ensuring each child received a prize. A deputy from the Cass County Sheriff's Department presented water safety information and instructed children on the proper fitting of PFDs, and Bobber the Water Safety Dog was very popular throughout the day. Lakeland Public Television recorded much of the event and it air on their following Tuesday evening news.

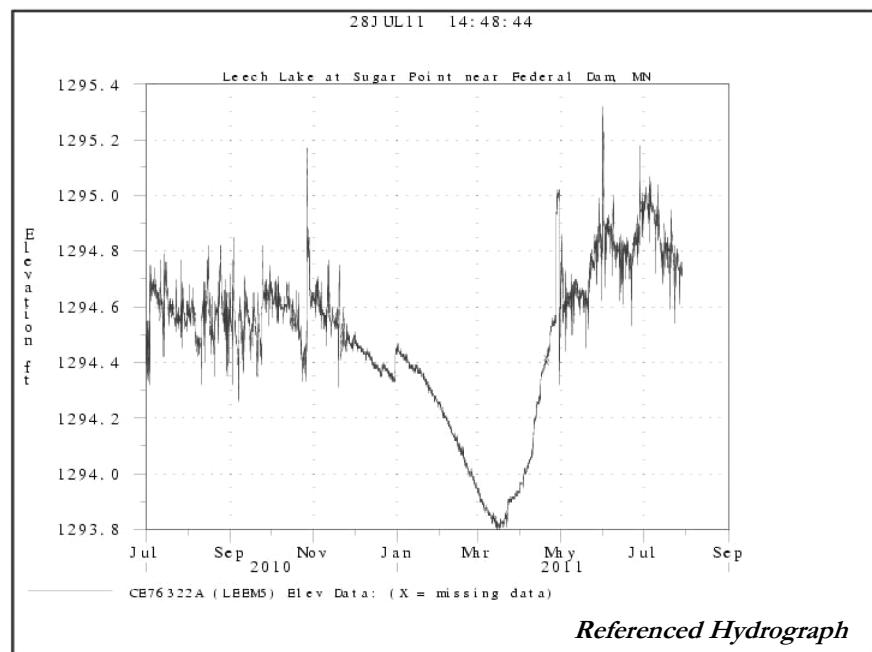


MORE INFORMATION

You can visit the Corps of Engineers Water Control, Web site at <http://www.mvp-wc.usace.army.mil> for more information on the regulation of Leech Lake Reservoir. Questions can be directed to Timm Rennecke at Leech Lake Dam, 218-654-3145. If you would like to comment regarding how lake



levels are affecting you please email:
timm.v.reennecke@usace.army.mil



CASS COUNTY ZEBRA MUSSELS TASK FORCE

The Leech Lake Association and other lake associations in Cass County have banded together to coordinate efforts to fight the spread of Zebra Mussels in Cass County. In addition to individual lake associations, the Task Force includes representatives from the Association of Cass County Lakes (ACCL), the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation (LLAWF), the Leech Lake Fishing Task Force, and others. In the July 29 Issue of the Star Tribune, writer Dennis Anderson reported that now – with



Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation
Protecting Water, Woods, and Wildlife for Future Generations to Enjoy



the state shutdown over – the DNR is scrambling to resurrect its invasive species prevention programs. This includes allocating millions of dollars over this year and next, the purchase of boat decontamination equipment, more inspectors at launch sites, stricter enforcement of violators, and a host of other steps designed to prevent the spread of invasives – particularly zebra mussels.



Upcoming Events Highlighted



August 19
*Cabin Succession Planning:
 Leaving A Legacy*



September 9-10
19th Annual Ethnic Fest



September 9-11
Muskies Inc. Tournament



September 17
28th North Country Marathon



November 25
Festival of Lights



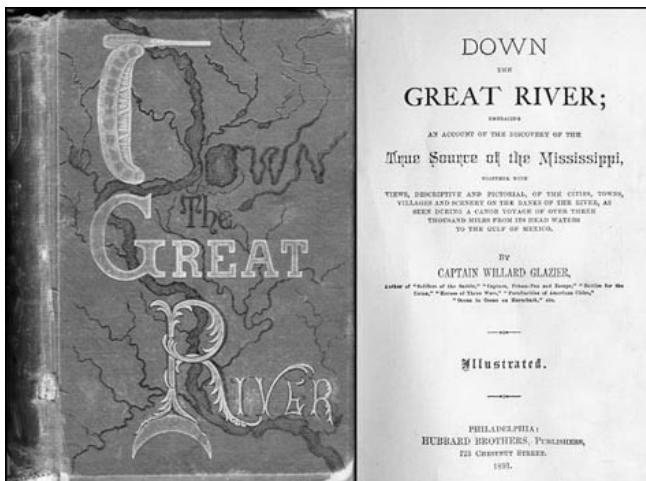
December 15
LLA Christmas Party



**Leech Lake
 ASSOCIATION INC**

LEECH LAKE IN ANTIQUITY

In 1884 Captain Willard Glazier, a Civil War Veteran and explorer, traveled by way of Leech Lake to find the “true source” of the Mississippi River. While Schoolcraft had identified Lake Itasca as the river’s source as early as 1832, Glazier had heard rumors that there were waters flowing into Lake Itasca from somewhere beyond, and that this “somewhere beyond” was the “true source.” He believed that discovering the “true source” would make him famous, and also give him material for a book., which he did in fact write. He recounts his adventures in the book titled “Down the Great River; An Account of the Discovery of the True Source of the Mississippi,” published by Hubbard



Publishers of Philadelphia in 1891. His book provides an interesting picture of the Leech Lake country as it was in 1884, before the arrival of the loggers and homesteaders. Excerpts from his book will be included in this Newsletter from time to time. The book also includes an 1880's map of the Leech Lake area, which seems surprisingly accurate for its time (enclosed). In prior issues, Captain Glazier described his trip from Brainerd to Leech Lake, and his stay at Agency Bay while awaiting Indian guides familiar with the Lake Itasca area. Now, well into his journey, and running out of supplies, he is discovering that a trip to Itasca in the 1880's is no walk in the park.



While waiting for the fog to rise, a small flock of pigeons dropped into the tops of some tall pine near by. George and Paine were inclined to observe their usual practice of discharging their firearms; but, as I considered the birds out of range, I reminded them that no more ammunition could be thrown away on such uncertainties.

The distance between the eastern and western branches of the Mississippi is between six and seven miles. Beginning in a marsh the portage soon reaches a slight elevation covered with a growth of cedar (top-left), spruce (top-middle), white pine (top-right) and tamarack (bottom-left); then plunges

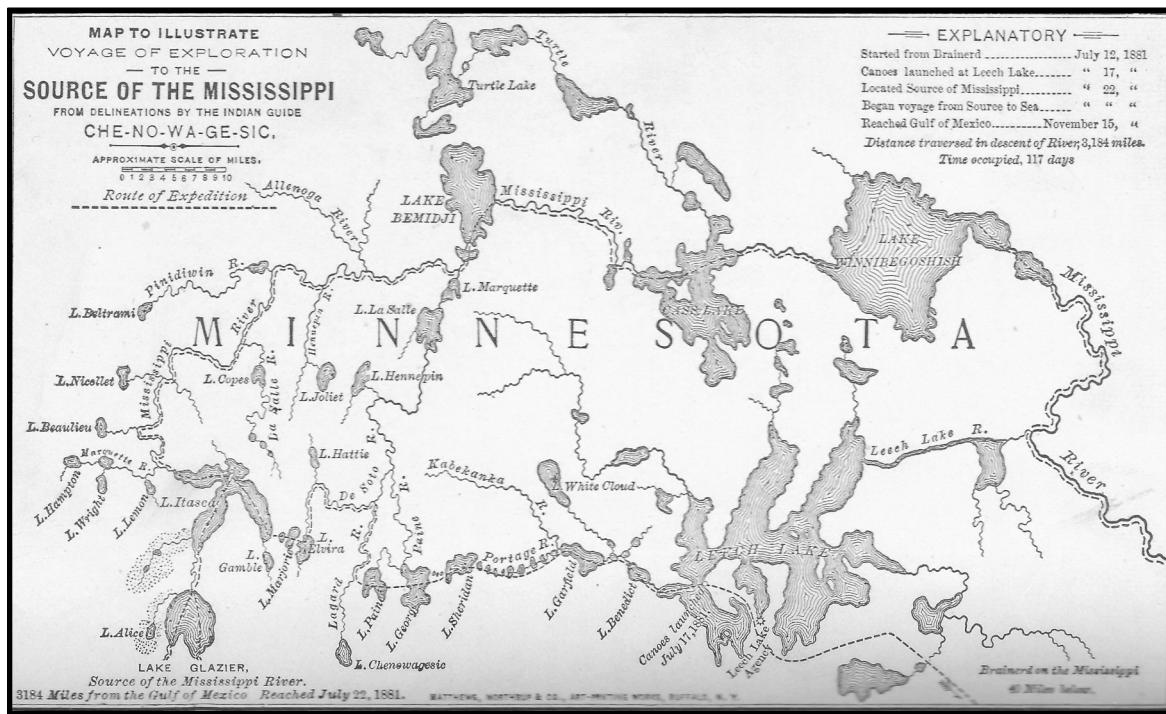


into a swamp matted with fallen trees (bottom-right), obscured by moss. From the swamp the trail emerges upon dry ground, whence it soon ascends an elevation of oceanic sand, presenting boulders and bearing pines. There is then another descent and another elevation. In short, this portage carried us over a series of diluvial sand-ridges which form

(Leech Lake in Antiquity continued on page 9)

(Leech Lake in Antiquity continued from page 8)

1880's MAP: HEADWATERS OF THE MISSISSIPPI



the height of land between the Mississippi and the Red River of the North.

Chenowagesic led the way while crossing this highland, followed by the other guides, each carrying as usual a canoe and a portion of the luggage. George, Paine, and myself moved forward on the trail in Indian file. As soon as all were in motion we pushed rapidly along, occasionally stopping for rest. The Chippewas denominate each of these stops "opugidjewinon," or a place for putting down the burden. Thirteen of these stops were given by Chenowagesic as the distance to Lake Itasca. The trail is often obscured by a dense undergrowth, and requires the precision of an Indian eye to detect it. Even the guide was sometimes disconcerted, and went forward to explore.

We found the weather much warmer than we had anticipated for Northern Minnesota, and not favorable to much exertion in bird or beast. Several flocks of pigeon and other birds common to northern latitudes were observed. Tracks of deer were numerous in the marshes skirting the ponds, but

traveling without the precaution required in hunting, we had no opportunity of seeing this animal in the high grounds. Ripe strawberries were found on the hillsides, and a very small species of the raspberry was brought to me by Cheowagesic at one of the resting places. The student of botany would consider the plants few and of little consequence.

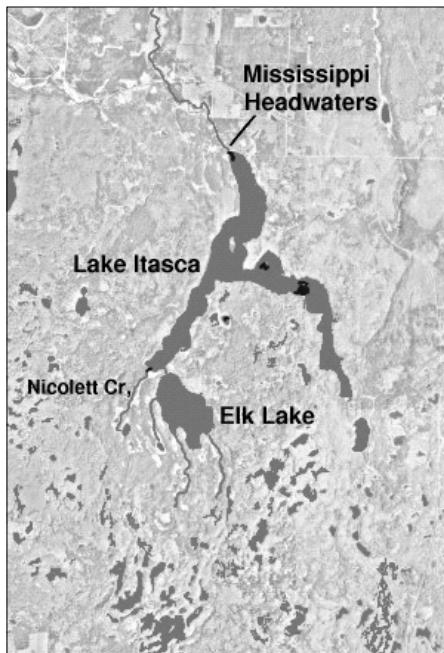
On turning out of a thicket at the foot of the last elevation, between three and four o'clock in the afternoon, our longing eyes rested upon the waters of Lake Itasca. A few moments later we were floating on its placid bosom, and, after a pull of between two and three miles, reached Schoolcraft Island. The island derives its name from Henry Rowe Schoolcraft, who discovered Itasca in 1832, and erroneously located it as the source of the Mississippi. Hitherto the claim of Schoolcraft has been unquestioned, and for half a century Lake Itasca has enjoyed the honor of standing at the head of the Father of Waters. The island is about three-quarters of an acre in extent, and so densely studded with undergrowth that we experienced much difficulty in clearing a space for our tents. We found here but

(Leech Lake in Antiquity continued on page 10)

(Leech Lake in Antiquity continued from page 9)

two or three trees worthy of notice, the most prominent of which was a tall, gray pine, and on this Paine blazed our names and the date of our encampment.

Itasca is in every respect a very beautiful lake, between five and six miles in length, and from one fourth to three-fourths of a mile in width. It has three arms – one to the southeast, three miles long;



one extending to the southwest from the island; and one reaching northward to the outlet two and a half miles. I asked Chenowagesic the Chippewa name of the lake and he replied "Omushkos," which means elk. Schoolcraft tells us that the word Itasca is derived from the mythological and necromantic notions of the Chippewas concerning the origin and mutations of the country.

We were in no condition to enjoy our delightful surroundings at this point, in consequence of the reduced state of our supplies. Determined upon a thorough exploration of the region adjacent to Lake Itasca, we were now confronted with a subject for serious consideration. We were at least six days from the nearest post of relief, and entirely out of rations, with the exception of a small piece of bacon and a few pounds of flour. The trolling-hooks were lost, and there were but sixty-five rounds of ammunition left. In this dilemma my white companions favored exploration. The Indians preferred an immediate descent of the river.

(To be continued)

CABIN SUCCESSION PLANNING: LEAVING A LEGACY



August 19, 2011 10 a.m. at the Walker Community Center LLAWF is sponsoring a repeat of last year's highly successful workshop "Your Cabin, Your Family, Your Legacy" on August 19 with Margaret Cronin, an estate planning expert with the law firm of Leonard, Street and Deinard. The family cabin or shoreland prop-

erty can be a family's most treasured asset. This workshop will provide an overview of different legal and estate planning tools for passing down the family cabin and property to the next generation. Margaret will discuss basic legal and logistical considerations, including cabin trusts and limited liability companies, to help you determine if cabin succession planning is right for you.

The cost is \$10 per person or \$15 per couple payable at the door. The Ten Mile Lake Association will subsidize their member's participation. Preregistration is requested; call 218-675-5773 and leave name, address, phone or email the information.





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.

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REMINDER: TIME TO RENEW MEMBERSHIPS FOR 2011-2012

Because our fiscal year runs from July to July, the date of our Annual Meeting is when memberships expire and dues are collected for the coming year. The notation '10' or '11' beside your name on the mailing label means that your membership has expired. We sincerely hope that you will renew your membership and encourage your friends and neighbors to do likewise. There is strength in numbers, and your dues allow our volunteers to carry on their work, which is to protect Leech Lake, guard your interests, and communicate with you through press releases and this newsletter.



Those of you who have not yet renewed at the time of this writing will find a membership form and return envelope enclosed with your newsletter. Please take a moment to fill it out and return it along with your check.

Thank you in advance,
The Membership Committee



WELCOMES NEW SPONSORS

We are very grateful to all those who have chosen to become sponsors of our Association! (\$100 and above). While our renewal period has just begun, several of you have already renewed as Sponsors. For those of you who have not yet renewed, we will include your names in our next newsletter. Our special thanks to:

2011-2012 Sponsors:

- ◆ J. Richard Simpson, Chanhassen, MN
- ◆ Dan & Shirley Sheldon, Eden Prairie, MN
- ◆ John & May Benedict, Aurora, IL
- ◆ Richard Brede at Acorn Hill Resort, Walker, MN
- ◆ Robert and Patti Gisvold, Walker, MN
- ◆ LeRoy & Marilyn Radermacher, Jordan, MN
- ◆ Oak Point Homeowners Association
- ◆ Isobel Brown, Whipholt, MN
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- ◆ Ann & R.I. Burns, Jr., Edina, MN
- ◆ Dan & Shirley Sheldon, Chanhassen, MN
- ◆ Ben Tande, Timber Creek Dock, Walker, MN

LIFETIME MEMBER (*\$1000 or more*)

- ◆ Dale & Harriet Jones, Walker, 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.

LLA Board Meetings are the second Monday of each month at 9:30 AM at the courthouse. Members and guest are welcome!



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Walker, MN 56484

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