



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,

After several years of relatively dry conditions, heavy early summer rains have pushed Leech Lake water levels to some of their highest in recent memory. All of Leech Lake – and indeed, all of Cass County – have no-wake zones within 300 feet of shore to mitigate shoreline erosion and other property damage. The Corps of Engineers at Federal Dam has increased its discharge to reduce water levels on Leech Lake, but as Timm Rennecke explains in this newsletter, the dam is involved in downstream flood control as well as Leech Lake water levels, which requires trade-offs when determining discharge rates from the dam. Assuming normal rainfall, the lake will gradually return to desired summer levels.



appointed to our Board of Directors. Both Robert Poirier Jr and Jeff Brockberg have homes on Leech Lake and many years of experience in business, government, and environmental issues. They share our love of the lake, and are committed to its protection for future generations. We very much welcome Bob Poirier and Jeff to our Board, and thank retiring John Annexstad and Roseanne Budahl for their many years of dedicated service to our cause.

We invite you to attend any of our monthly meetings to see what we do. Members from the Leech Lake Tribe, the DNR, the Corps of Engineers, and County officials regularly attend these meetings , and you will find them an excellent way to keep abreast of what is happening on the lake and in the community. I encourage you to contact me or any of our Board Members for more information, or if you have an issue where we might provide assistance.

The on-going battle to keep Leech Lake free of zebra mussels and other invasives is ramping up as a result of legislative action and as more grant money becomes available. There is now an AIS master plan, boat inspectors hired, and decontamination stations being purchased for cleaning boats at sites still to be determined. We thank the many groups involved in this effort, including the Association of Cass County Lakes and the Cass County Soil and Water District who has responsibility for overseeing the boat inspection program.

I am pleased to report that two very experienced people have recently been

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UPCOMING EVENTS

August 9-11

Leech Lake Regatta

August 14-16

Cajun Fest at Northern Lights

September 5-7th

Muskies Inc Tournament

September 13th

Ethnic Fest 22

September 17th

LLA Meeting

September 20th

30th North Country Marathon, 10K

November 19th

LLA Meeting

November 28th-29th

Festival of Lights

December 18th

Leech Lake Association Annual Christmas Party

Robert Gisvold, President



Leech Lake Update, July 2014

Walker Area Fisheries Office
 07316 State Hwy 371
 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.

Walleye fry stocking

- Approximately 7.5 million (OTC-marked) fry were stocked from May 24-26, 2014. Stocking rates have been either 7.5 or 20-22.5 million fry per year from 2005 through 2014.
- Thank you to Larry Jacobson, Steve Jacobson, Nancy Wolf, and Chris Zimmer for assisting with stocking efforts.

Main Lake	Number	Western Bays	Number
Boy Bay	653,172	Steamboat Bay	767,004
Headquarters Bay	654,823	Walker Bay North	383,502
Portage Bay	1,306,344	Walker Bay South	109,572
Sucker Bay	1,137,261	Kabekona Bay	54,786
Main Basin	1,728,854	Agency Bay	50,371
Trader's Bay	654,823		1,365,235
	6,135,277		

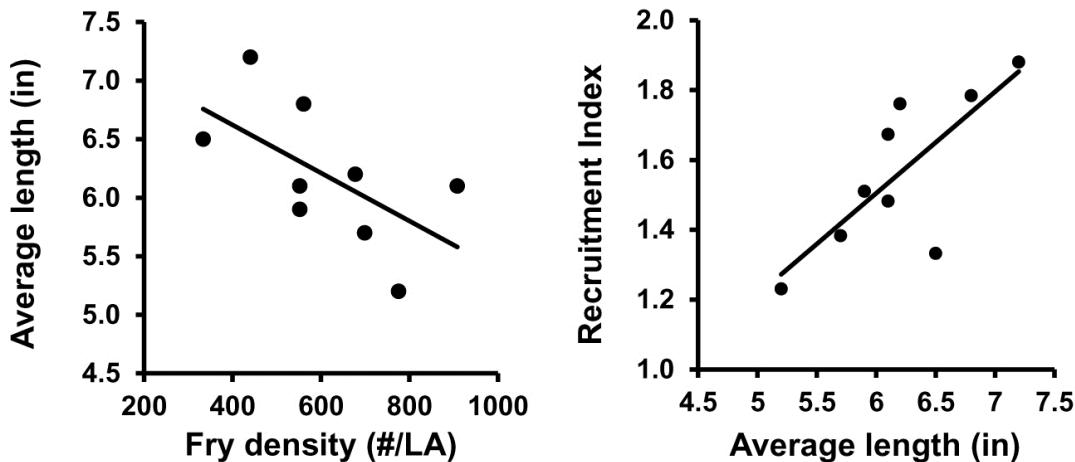
Total number of walleye fry stocked throughout Leech Lake, 2014.

Preliminary fry stocking findings

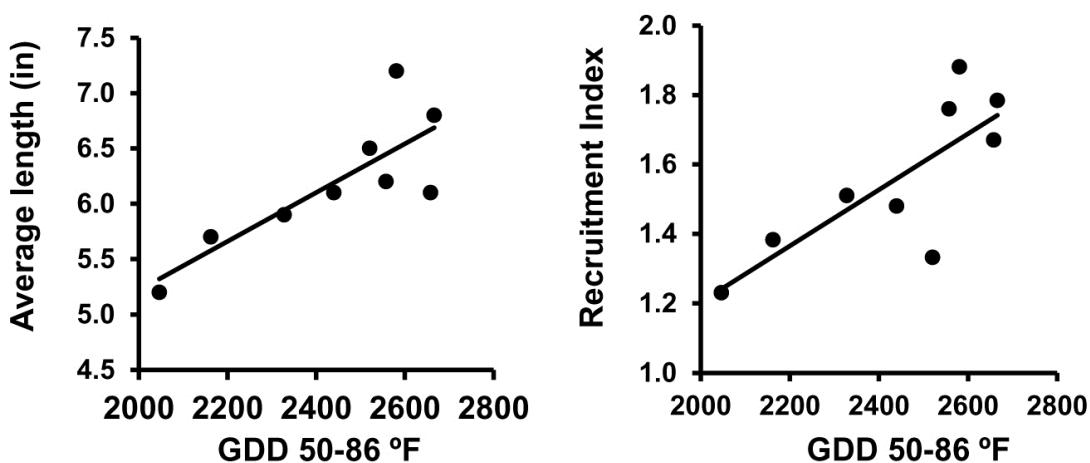
- Lower walleye fry densities result in increased growth rates for young-of-year walleye by mid-September (page 3, top left figure).
- The larger the size of young-of-year walleye by mid-September, the higher the likelihood of survival and recruitment to the fishery (page 3, top right figure).
- Longer, warmer summers (higher growing degree day units; i.e. GDD units) result in better young-of-year walleye growth (page 3, bottom left figure), likely due to increased algae and zooplankton production.
- The longer and warmer the summer (higher GDD units), the higher the likelihood of surviving and recruiting to the fishery (page 3, bottom right figure).

(DNR Report continued on page 3)

(DNR Report continued from page 2)



The total walleye fry density (fry/littoral acre) and the average length (inches) of young-of-year walleye sampled by electrofishing in September in Leech Lake, 2005-13 (Above left). The average length (inches) of young-of-year walleye sampled by electrofishing in September and the resulting walleye year class strength in Leech Lake, 2005-13 (Above right).



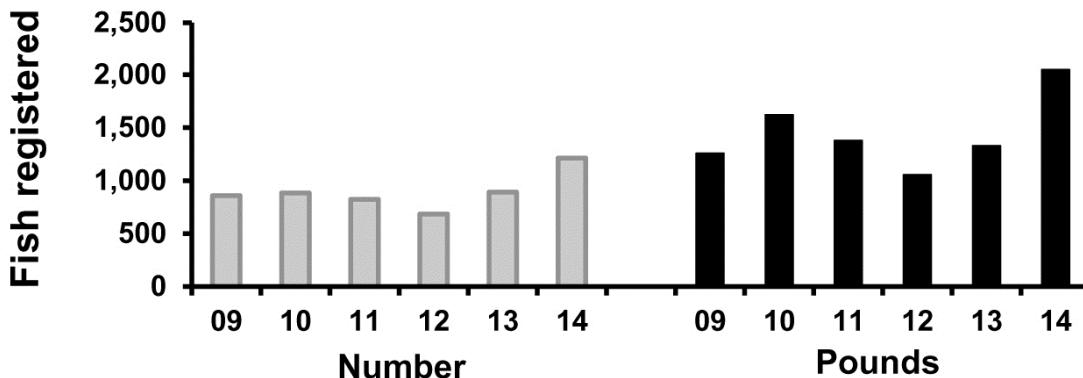
Growing degree days (GDD; 50-86 °F) and the average length of young-of-year walleye sampled by electrofishing in September in Leech Lake, 2005-13 (Above left). Growing degree days (GDD; 50-86 °F) and the resulting walleye recruitment index in Leech Lake, 2005-13.

(DNR Report continued on page 4)

(DNR Report continued from page 3)

Leech Lake Walleye Tournament

- From May 31 through June 1, 2014, 157 two person teams competed in the Leech Lake Walleye Tournament. Participants in 2014 registered 1,213 walleye that weighed 2,047 pounds, the most in terms of number and pounds in the past six years.
- John Eaton (Leech Lake Association), Chuck Allen (Leech Lake Association), Stephanie Shearen (Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District), Will Pehling (Northstar Sportsmens Club), and others that assisted prior to and throughout the tournament with AIS prevention efforts.
- For further tournament information please contact the communications director for the tournament, Gretchen Gribbon, by phone (218-547-1853) or email (wacc@arvig.net).



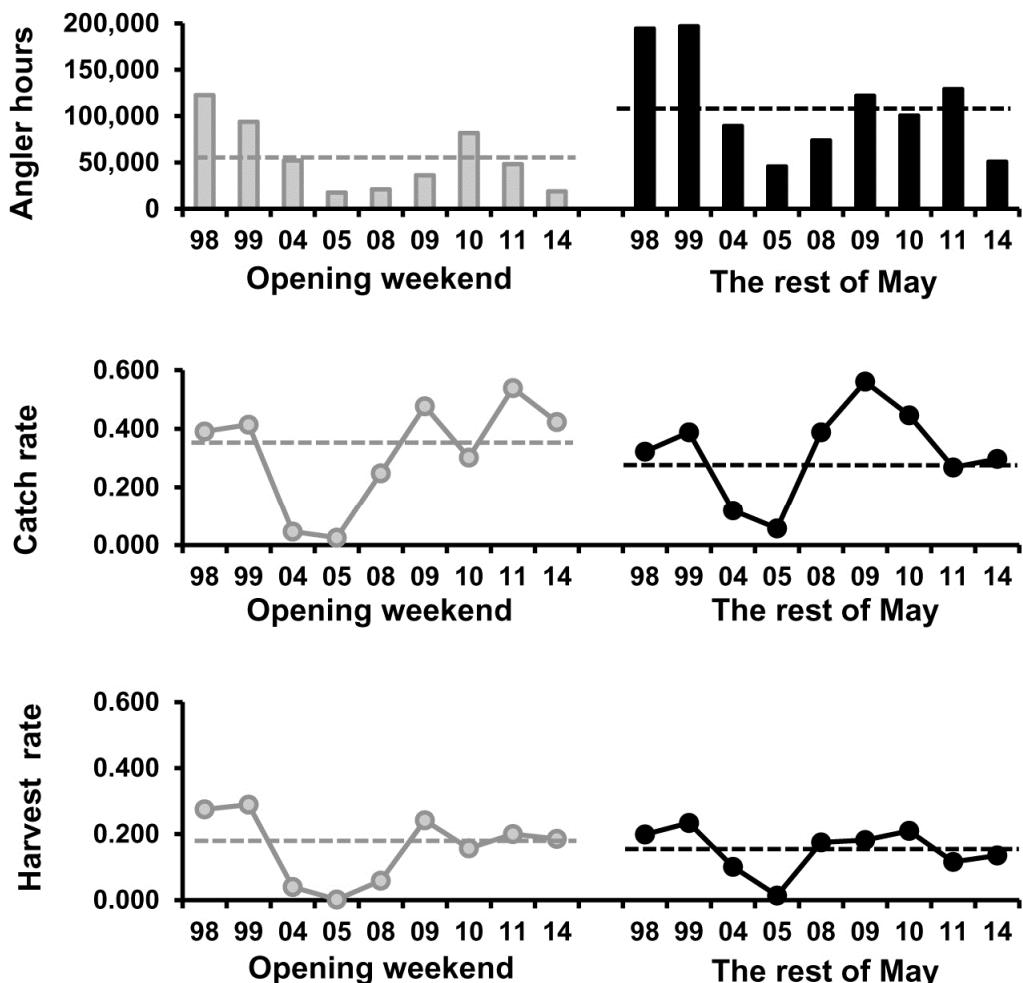
The number and pounds of walleye registered in the Leech Lake Walleye Tournament, 2009-2014.

Leech Lake Angler Creel Survey

- The new 20-26" protected slot limit (PSL) took effect on May 10, 2014. The bag of 4, with one fish over 26" remains in effect..
- To monitor angler response to the regulation change, angler creel surveys will occur throughout the 2014 open water season and 2014-15 ice fishing season.
- Results from May indicate the number of hours anglers fished Leech Lake on opening weekend and throughout the rest of May were low compared with recent surveys (page 5, top figure), despite good catch and harvest rates (page 5, middle and bottom figures).
- During May, 55% of walleyes anglers caught were outside of the 20-26" PSL, while 9% were 18-19.9".
- During May, anglers harvested 95% of walleyes they caught from 14-19.9", while they harvested 37% of walleyes from 26-30".

(DNR Report continued on page 5)

(DNR Report continued from page 4)



The estimated number of hours anglers fished during opening weekend and the rest of May on Leech Lake, 2014 (top figure). Walleye catch and harvest rates (fish per hour) by all Leech Lake anglers during opening weekend and the rest of May, 2014 (middle and bottom figures). Long term averages are reported with dashed lines on each figure.

2014 survey plans

- 2014 survey plans include sampling juvenile walleye and perch via seining in July, trawling in August, and electrofishing in September, and conducting a lakewide gill net survey in mid-September. Zooplankton will be sampled monthly from May through October.
- If you have any questions regarding walleye stocking, please contact Doug Schultz, Walker Area Fisheries Supervisor (doug.w.schultz@state.mn.us).
- IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER THIS YEAR AND ASSIST WITH ANY OF THE ASSESSMENTS DESCRIBED ABOVE, PLEASE CONTACT: Matt Ward (matt.ward@state.mn.us) Large Lake Specialist at 218-547-1683.



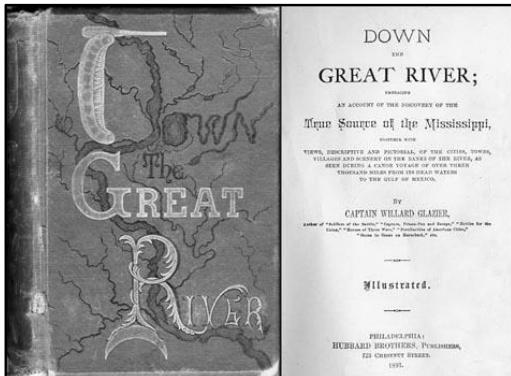
LEECH LAKE IN ANTIQUITY



Down the great river

WILLARD W. GLAZIER

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, his stay at Agency Bay while awaiting Indian guides, and their arduous journey to Lake Itasca. They have now arrived at Itasca, and points beyond, but their food is gone and starvation begins.

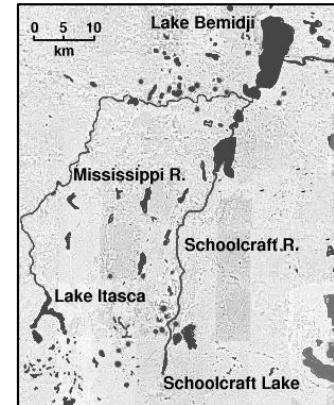
THE JOURNEY CONTINUES (IN THE WORDS OF CAPTAIN GLAZIER)

Struck camp at sunrise. Shot a muskrat with our last round of ammunition, and killed two ducks with paddles early in the afternoon, which, with a few blueberries gathered by the guides, gave us a scant dinner. Had we not been thus favored, it is hard to say what our fate might have been, for we were so much reduced in strength by this time that it was with the greatest difficulty we continued the descent of the river, aided only, as we were, by a sluggish current, and too weak to accomplish much with our paddles. A breakdown seemed inevitable, but this timely relief gave us renewed energy and braced us up for more vigorous work in pushing forward with our canoes.

We met a canoe late in the afternoon, about ten miles above Lake Bemidji, in which there were an Indian, his squaw and pappoose. Finding they had some dried fish and a small quantity of maple sugar, we proposed a purchase, which was made after considerable parleying, and which resulted in our securing four small perch and about two pounds of sugar. The Fates certainly favored us on this occasion, for had we been a few moments later we should not have seen these Indians, as at the time of our meeting they were about turning from the Mississippi to ascend one of its tributaries.

As soon as we were in possession of sugar and fish it was voted that nothing should be eaten until our usual hour for supper; but I may add that our wise resolutions were not very strictly adhered to, and the official having charge of the sugar was frequently visited upon errands having no reference to the points of the compass.

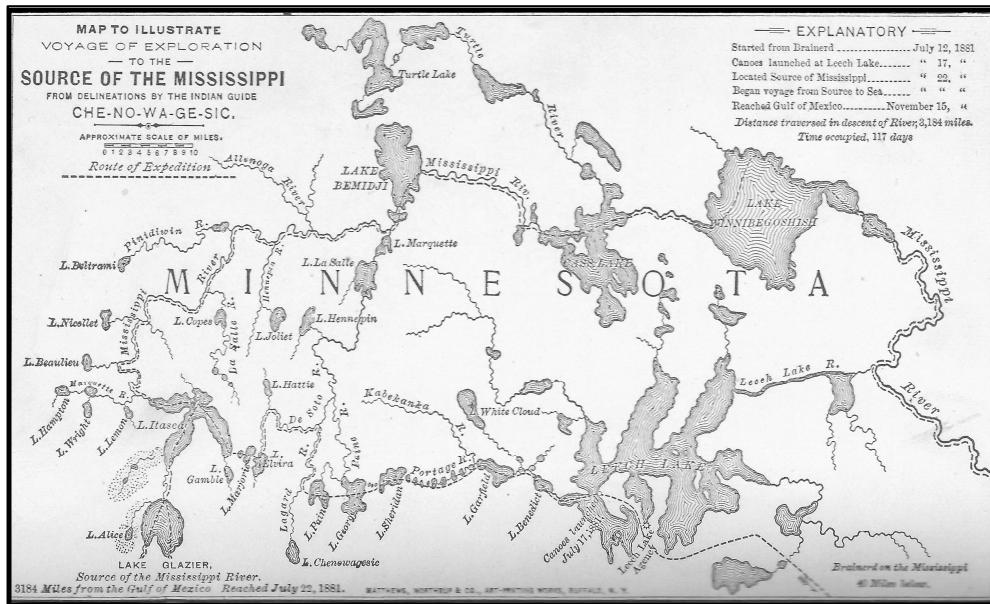
We reached the mouth of the eastern fork of the Mississippi at five o'clock. This stream, to which allusion was made during our voyage to Lake Itasca, unites with the western fork about three miles south of Bemidji. We were now in latitude 47 degrees 28'46". Of the two primary streams which unite at this point the one flowing



(Leech Lake in Antiquity continued on page 7)

(Leech Lake in Antiquity continued from page 6)

1880's MAP: HEADWATERS OF THE MISSISSIPPI



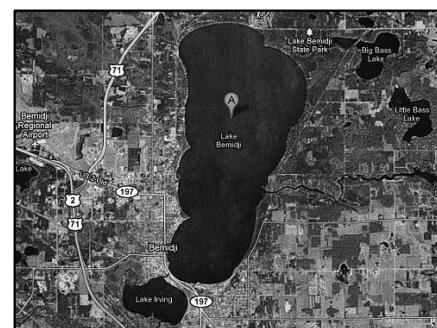
from the west contributes by far the larger volume of water, possessing the greater velocity and breadth of current. A few moments before six o'clock we entered a beautiful little lake of clear water and a picturesque margin, spreading transversely to our course, to with I gave the name of Marquette. Chenowagesic led the way

A few moments before six o'clock we entered a beautiful little lake of clear water and a picturesque margin, spreading transversely to our course, to with I gave the name of Marquette.

directly north across this body of water, striking the river again on its opposite shore. The Mississippi at the point of leaving lake Marquette is a broad, shallow channel, with rapid current. I estimated this channel to be not more than one hundred yards long, at which distance we entered the largest lake yet encountered in our seaward voyage. This fine body of water is known as

Pemidjegumaug, which is the Lac Traverse of the early French explorers. It appears upon the recent maps as Bemidji, which is an indifferent abbreviation of its original title. The peculiarity recognized by the Indian name of Pemidjegumaug, or cross-water, is found to consist in the circumstance of the entrance of the Mississippi into its extreme southern end, and its passage through or across part of it at a short distance from the point of entrance.

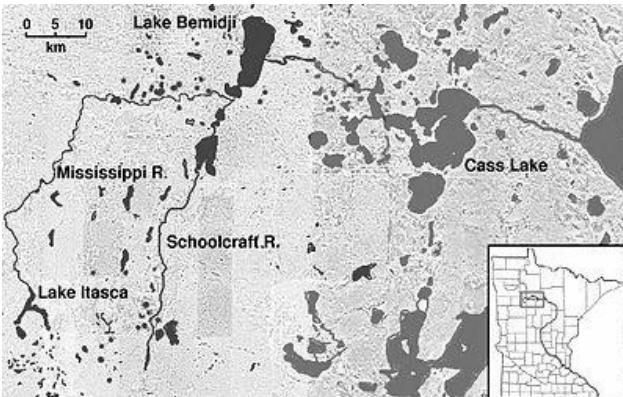
Lake Bemidji is in every way a magnificent sheet of water, twelve miles in length from north to south, and six or seven broad, fringed by an open forest of hard wood. It is distant one hundred and forty eight miles from the source of the river, and lies at an elevation of 1456 feet above the Gulf of Mexico.



(Leech Lake in Antiquity continued on page 8)

(Leech Lake in Antiquity continued from page 7)

Continuing our course we paddled across the southern end of Lake Bemidji to its outlet. Descending the river a short distance we came to high ground, which was considered favorable for a camp; halted and pitched tents a few moments before sunset. Here we were again brought to the realization of an empty lager. Every grain of sugar had disappeared. The last round of ammunition was gone but four small dried perch left to carry us to Lake Winnibegoshish, distant about a hundred miles; for we had now learned that the trading post at this point, and also that at Cass Lake, had some time been abandoned. The fish were carefully cut up and distributed, which, with a few blueberries found near our encampment, afforded temporary refreshment and sent us to our tents musing, not so much upon the beautiful scenery which had arrested our attention during the afternoon, as upon the possibility of bagging something of an eatable character.



Launched our canoes (the next morning) a few minutes after sunrise. Killed two small mallard ducks and one mud turtle with our paddles, which, with the usual addition of the never-failing blueberries, gave us an indifferent breakfast at ten o'clock. All hands very weak again from want of sufficient food.

Reached Cass Lake at three o'clock in the afternoon. Here we found a wigwam on the shore of the lake occupied by an Indian woman and her children. A careful exploration brought to light a few dried fish, which we at once purchased with money and tobacco, the latter article being especially appreciated. Dame Fortune seemed to be with us once more, and hastening back to our canoes we paddled directly across the lake, disembarking at a point near its outlet. Tents were pitched and prepara-

tions for supper begun, for we now had something to eat, and were in no humor to defer the eating. Desirous of adding something of a nourishing character to our small stock of dried fish, Chenowagesic and the Lagards were instructed to forage in the vicinity of our encampment. They soon returned, reporting the discovery of a deserted wigwam and a large garden of growing corn and potatoes. This garden, well filled with half-grown potatoes, was to my starving companions an object of sincere admiration, especially when we were told by our guides that in the Indian country the hungry are always at liberty to help themselves. Under the circumstances, this practice of our red brothers was well calculated to inspire us with most exalted ideas of aboriginal generosity, and the alacrity with which we helped ourselves to those juvenile potatoes fully attested our appreciation.

After supper all went down to the lake and had a full bath, then returned to our tents thankful for the favors of the day, and loud in our praises of Indians who plant corn and potatoes.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES UPDATE

This summer has turned into a very busy time with regard to aquatic invasive species (AIS) issues. Reports of new infestations are occurring at the rate of about a waterbody per week despite increased education, watercraft inspections and enforcement efforts to stop them. On the other hand, growing state-wide concern has stimulated the donation



of resources to fight them from a couple of previously hard-to-interest sources: the state legislature and the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

The legislative commitment, a statewide \$10 million program awarding funds to counties based on the number of public boat landings in them, resulted in Cass County getting \$220,000 in the middle of July this year. Cass is also slated to get approximately \$500,000 next year. These funds can be used toward AIS prevention projects on a lake-to-county-wide level under very broad subject guidelines (enforcement, inspection, signage, education, etc.) after county approval of a written AIS project plan. Fortuitously, Cass County

completed just such a plan in September of last year that will be a major factor in determining where and how AIS funds will be directed here. While detailed planning has just begun, some specific uses of the money might include increasing inspection hours on higher-use area lakes, permanently locating decontamination stations at strategic sites around the county and Leech Lake, more effective signage, and stimulating stronger community support. Comments on these early plans and any additional ideas by LLA Members are welcome!



The Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council fund will provide \$3,650,000 to about 10 lake associations or other entities around the state to "assess the effectiveness of a range of strategies to prevent introduction of AIS in uninfected or minimally infected lakes in Minnesota". Requests for proposals and funding for such projects are expected to go out from LSOHC this fall, and the projects that are selected for funding to start next year. Both Cass County and an AIS team assembled by the Association of Cass County Lakes are considering ideas for projects that might capture some of these resources to fight invasive species invasions in this area.

In the meantime, the MN DNR AIS program has been conducting watercraft inspections and decontamination at public launch ramps around Leech Lake. This program is administered by Northern Watercraft Inspection Program Assistant Bruce Anspach out of Itasca State Park. Inspection hours



have been increased to 1080 hours for the 2014 boating season, toward which the Leech Lake Association donated \$1,250 as part of a matching grant (the state pays the other half). This program also involves randomly locating a hot water spray decontamination unit at public landings around the lake. To date, only 6 hot water decontaminations have been determined to be necessary to protect Leech and next-destination lakes in 2014.

John Eaton

EFFECTS OF HIGH WATER LEVELS ON WATERBIRDS ON LEECH LAKE



High lake water levels can be detrimental to a number of wildlife species, especially those that nest near the water's edge or in low-lying areas. Shorebirds that need

exposed open beaches to forage or nest on are probably the most negatively affected. Leech Lake no longer has many nesting shorebird species, but still sees a good number of migrants in the spring and fall. Some of these species will start to migrate south as early as late July or early August. Of the 33 or so species of shorebirds that nest in, or migrate through Minnesota, 31 have been observed on Leech Lake. It is very unlikely water levels will drop fast enough to provide much foraging habitat for these species this fall.



Colonial waterbirds are another group of birds that can be negatively affected by high water levels especially if they nest on the ground, in low-lying areas, or if water levels rise after a nest has been established. The group of birds includes species like terns, gull, cormorants, and pelicans. The

high water levels on Leech Lake have reduced the reproduction of most colonial waterbirds this year with common terns hit the hardest. Other species that are nesting in higher situations are less affected by direct nest flooding, but with more rain you typically get more storms and severe weather that frequently causes high waves that can over wash nest sites and also destroy nests and kill young.

CORMORANT CONFLICT MANAGEMENT 2014

Cormorant conflict management removed almost 1700 birds from Leech Lake in 2014. There were more birds removed in 2013, but less than the long-term average. It is suspected that the strange weather patterns we had this past spring resulted in more cormorants attempting to nest on Leech Lake instead of heading up to Canada where the largest colonies are found.



Steve Mortensen



US Army Corps of Engineers

LEECH RESERVOIR WATER LEVELS

On July 05, 2014, the water elevation (level) on Leech Lake is 1295.70 feet. This level is about one foot above the normal desirable summer range target. The current discharge from the dam, in accordance with the congressionally approved water control plan, is at 650 cubic feet per second (CFS).

I've dedicated portions of this article over the past several issues to explain requirements of the Leech Lake Congressionally Approved Water Control Plan including operating limits, authorized purposes, downstream channel capacity, and how flooding at Aitkin could affect Leech Lake.



A quick review of our operating limits:

- Leech Lake desirable summer range: 1294.50 - 1294.90.
- Normal operating levels: 1293.20 - 1295.70.
- Total operating limits: 1292.70 - 1297.94. (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.
- 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.

During May and June 2014; Leech, Winnie, and Pokegama reservoirs have been operated for flood control at Aitkin, MN (as provided by the approved Water Control Manuals). On about the end of June the Aitkin area began to dry out; accordingly Pokegama, Winnie, & Leech increased outflow to provide some relief. But everyone must be aware; LL water level under these conditions is very weather dependant and will take some time before it recedes to its desirable summer range.

High water is very widespread throughout Minnesota (and now Iowa) so far this summer. High water is causing shoreline and environmental damage, and, in some cases, homes and communities are flooding.

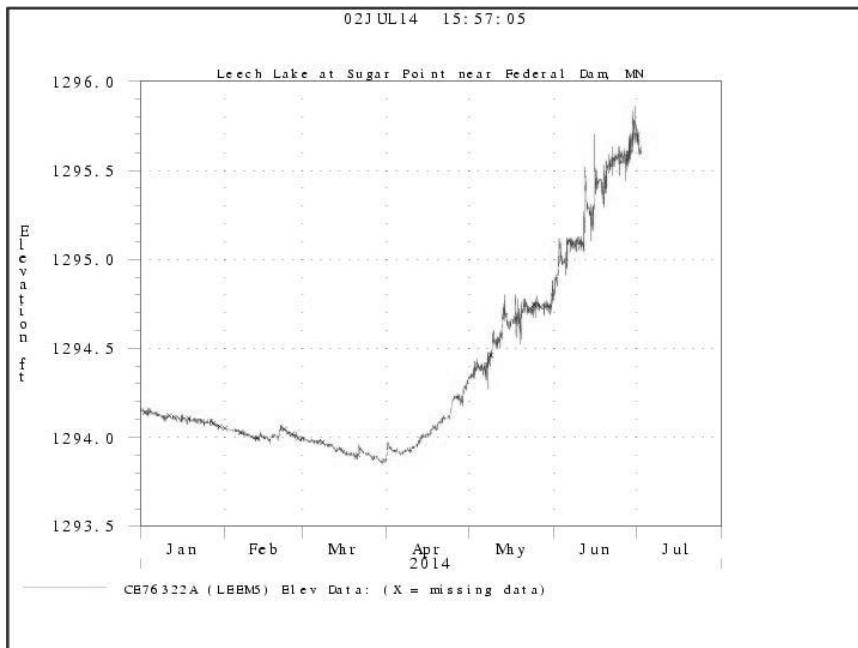
2013 AND 2014 IN REVIEW

Weather during the second half of 2013 presented drought conditions to much of our area along with corresponding low water levels. The 90-day precipitation outlook for January through March 2014, provided by the National Weather Service (NWS) Climate Prediction Center (CPC), tilted toward equal chances for below normal, normal, and above normal conditions across north central Minnesota but the Eastern part of the Leech Lake Watershed began receiving higher amounts of snow. Accordingly, we increased the outflow to achieve a full drawdown of Leech Lake ,to make room for spring runoff and potential flood water storage. Spring 2014 runoff and wet conditions raised Leech Lake to our summer desirable target elevation in May but June provided near record precipitation amounts in some areas. The US Drought Monitor, released on June 19, indicated that there were no locations within Minnesota with a drought designation. This is the first time since July 2011 that this has occurred. Leech levels continued rising to a peak of 1295.8 in June.

(US Army Corps of Engineers continued on page 12)

(US Army Corps of Engineers continued from page 11)

SEE THE LEECH HYDROGRAPH BELOW FROM JAN 2014 TO CURRENT:



Operation Summary Correlating to the Leech Lake Water Level Hydrograph:

- * **Jan – Mar 2014:** Winter drawdown occurring.
- * **Apr 2014:** Leech Lake and Winnie Dams halt winter drawdown to allow for drainage of the downstream Mississippi River due to potential spring flooding in Aitkin. This caused Leech Lake to begin rising.
- * **May 2014:** Leech Lake stabilizes after runoff exactly at the desired summer target level of 1294.70.
- * **Jun 2014:** Leech Lake rises above the desirable summer band of 1294.50 – 1294.90. Over 9 inches of rain is measured at Federal Dam from 31-May to 30-June 2014. Normal rain for June is 3.87 inches.
- * **Jul 2014:** Leech Lake is about 1 foot above normal. Heavy winds are causing shoreline damage. Dry weather is needed help lower Leech and Winnie.

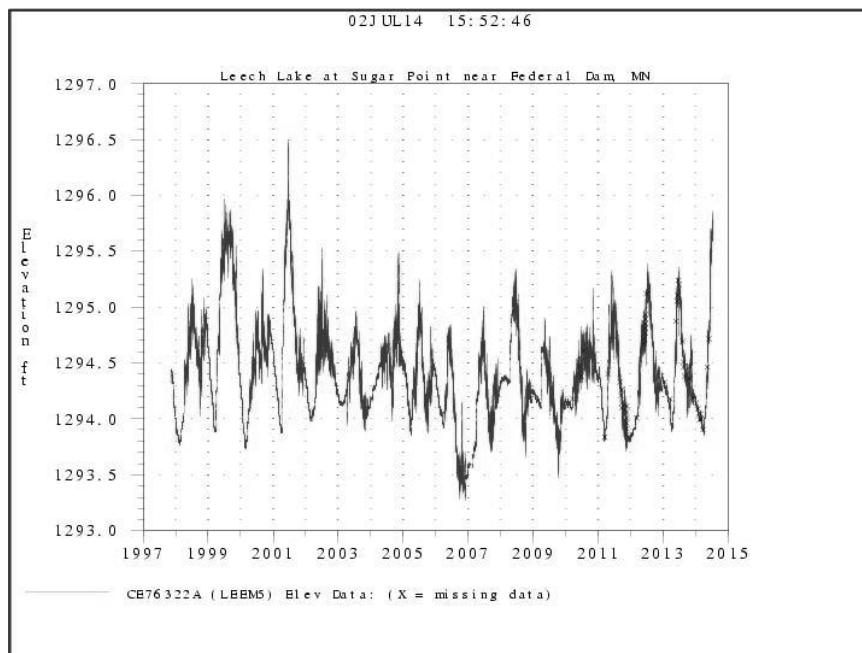
OPERATING FOR FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION

When operating headwaters reservoirs for flood control at Aitkin, each of the reservoir levels are monitored along with the stage at Aitkin. A 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 cannot always be followed.

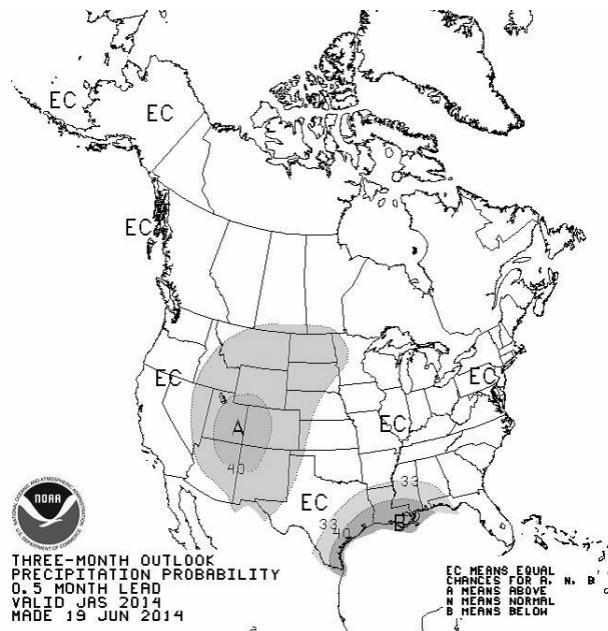
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HISTORICAL HYDROGRAPH OF LEECH LAKE FROM 1997 – CURRENT: June 2014 is highest since 2001.



LOOKING FORWARD

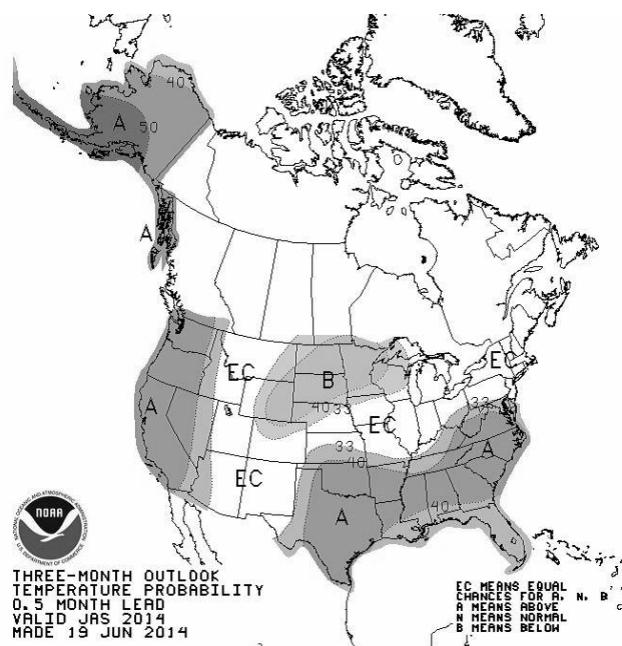


The 90-day precipitation outlook for July, August, September 2014, provided by the National Weather Service (NWS) Climate Prediction Center (CPC), tilts toward equal chances for below normal, normal, or above normal conditions across north central Minnesota but we are very close to being predicted as “above normal”:

(US Army Corps of Engineers continued on page 14)

(US Army Corps of Engineers continued from page 13)

The **90-day temperature outlook** for July, August, September 2014, provided by the National Weather Service (NWS) Climate Prediction Center (CPC), tilts toward below normal temperatures:

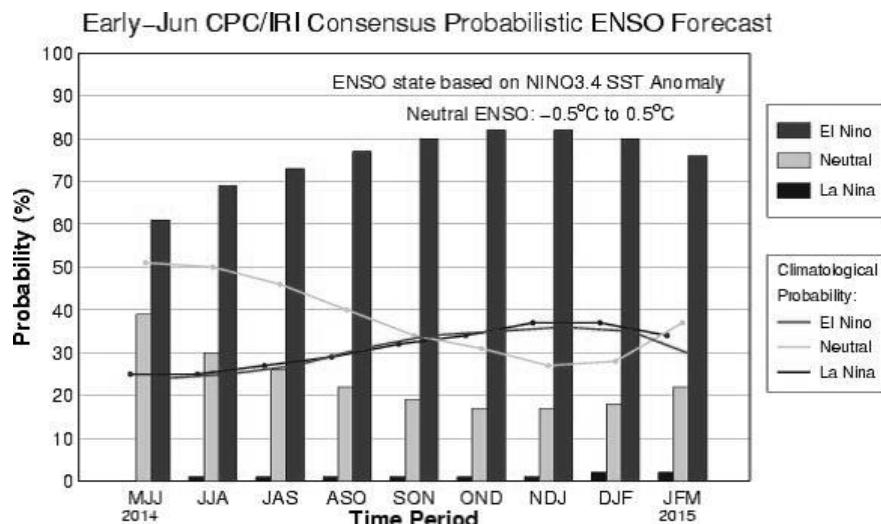


EL NIÑO/SOUTHERN OSCILLATION (ENSO) DIAGNOSTIC DISCUSSION

The Climate Prediction Center/NCEP/NWS and the International Research Institute for Climate and Society provides weather predictions and information that affects our fall and winter weather in North Central Minnesota.

On 5 June 2014 the following was released:

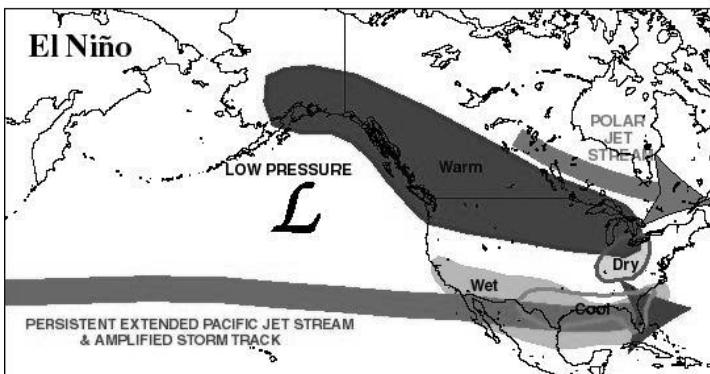
ENSO Alert System Status: El Niño Watch
Synopsis: The chance of El Niño is 70% during the Northern Hemisphere summer and reaches 80% during the fall and winter.



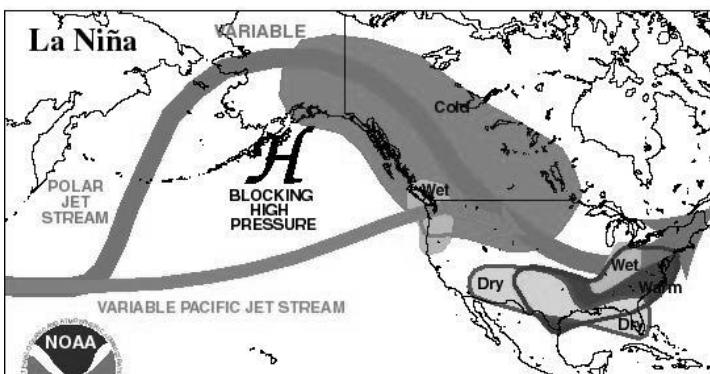
(US Army Corps of Engineers continued on page 15)

(US Army Corps of Engineers continued from page 14)

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



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 (bottom map) 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.



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> for more information on the regulation of Leech Lake Reservoir. Questions can be directed to Timm Rennecke at Leech Lake Dam, 651-290-5470. If you would like to comment regarding how lake levels are affecting you please email: timm.v.reennecke@usace.army.mil



DNR GENERAL PERMIT MAY HELP EXPEDITE STATEWIDE FLOOD REPAIRS



Private landowners, agencies, and political subdivisions throughout the state impacted by flooding who want to repair damaged shorelines, bridges, culverts, roadways, structures, stream channels and other facilities to pre-flood condition may be eligible to quickly acquire the necessary DNR permit by applying online at the Minnesota permitting and reporting system (MPARS) website at www.mndnr.gov/mpars [<http://www.mndnr.gov/mpars>].

When applying online through MPARS, the authorization may be obtained in just days. People without Internet access can obtain a paper permit application from a local DNR or county zoning office.

Before beginning repairs, people working at or below the high water level on lakes, wetlands, and streams need to apply for the permit, pay a small fee (usually \$100), and receive authorization. For repairs above the high water level, contact the local governmental unit to obtain permission.

In-kind replacement (i.e. same kind, size and dimension) may be authorized by this permit. Deviations from in-kind replacement can be authorized if specifically identified in the permit authorization.

Expedited authorization is not available for projects that seek approval for unauthorized construction already started or completed, channelize or realign a stream, take place in or impact a designated trout stream, enlarge a drainage ditch, block, divert or appropriate stream water, alter a water level control structure, convert a bridge crossing to a culvert crossing or excavate fill from public waters without consultation and approval of the DNR.

To use MPARS:

- * Go to the MPARS website www.mndnr.gov/MPARS [<http://www.mndnr.gov/MPARS>].
- * Click the "Open MPARS" button.
- * Create an account.
- * Complete the permit application.
- * Pay the fee online for permit.



For questions about the flood repair general permit, contact the county DNR hydrologist. Contact information is at http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/area_hydros.pdf.



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



CITIZENS LEARNING HOW TO MONITOR THE HEALTH OF A STREAM

[...Website!](#)

MN WATERS HOME WELCOME PRESIDENT'S LETTER MANAGEMENT PLAN EVENTS PROJECTS BOARD MEMBERS MEMBERSHIP LINKS CONTACT US PUBLICATIONS

Welcome Welcome to the....

Leech Lake Association

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.

Helpful hints to guide you through this LLA website:

- Clicking on "MN WATERS HOME" at top left side menu will take you to MN WATERS website (see note below).
- Clicking on any other menu items at the left side will take you to that LLA website page.
- Clicking on the small "x" at the top right will change the text size for easier reading and/or printing.
- It is suggested to save this website under your "Favorites"/"Bookmarks" for easy access.

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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.

VISIT OUR LLA WEBSITE:

www.minnesotawaters.org/group/leech/home
Hosted by Minnesota Waters/Conservation Minnesota

The Host, Minnesota Waters, for our Leech Lake Association website is currently creating a New Website for Lake Associations to use. The specific content of our website will be updated prior to migration to the new website, however, accessing the site and the content will not change greatly at this time. The new and improved website is expected to be up and running within the next few weeks. Until then, our present site will remain available for use. If you have not visited our site, please do so. It includes our current newsletters, membership forms, events and other useful information about our association and the surrounding area. We attempt to keep it current and try to continually improve the content.

*Thanks You!
LLA Board Members*

**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/>



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MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER:

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 '14' beside your name on the mailing label means that your membership is up to date through July 2014. Those with an 11, 12 or 13 beside your name means your membership has expired. Those with expired memberships will receive a self-addressed envelope and renewal form along with this newsletter. 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.

**Thank you in advance,
The Membership Committee**



Leech Lake Association
PO Box 1613
Walker, MN 56484

Forwarding Service Requested

LEECH LAKE ASSOCIATION 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:

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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.

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