



Lake Edward Lines

Newsletter of the Lake Edward Conservation Club



August LECC Board Meeting

The Lake Edward Conservation Club Board meeting will be held at the Merrifield Marathons Center from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 Saturday, August 18th, 2012. Although this is a board meeting, not a general membership meeting, all are welcome to come and participate in the meeting. The Merrifield Marathons Center is located on County Road 3, South of Merrifield.

Thanks to all who support the LECC through dues, donations, and volunteering!

June General Membership Meeting

The general membership meeting was held on June 16th at the Merrifield Marathons Center. The meeting was well attended. Committee chairs updated us on their areas of interest. Water committee: there are still issues with Ditch 13. Fisheries committee: walleye fry were stocked in May. Planning and Zoning: land use ordinance changes are being considered. Aquatics committee: the lake supports 32 native species and is very healthy. Informal conversations included lake levels, beaver dams, invasive species, election of officers, loon report, cormorant warnings, lake level clarity, fishing reports, OHW ordinary high water level, AIS packet distribution as well as suggested future topics for the LECC to consider. The most riveting segment of the meeting was the viewing of the video promoted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to inform folks about the very real threat of invasive species to our lakes. See page three for more information about the video.



Annual dues for the LECC are \$15.00 per property owner. Not a member? The application to join is in this newsletter. Membership dues are tax deductible as are any donations to the organization. Thank you for your support.

LECC WEBSITE ADDRESS

<http://edwardlake.wordpress.com>

Fast Facts

Lake Edward ID Number

18-0305

Size:

2,032 acres

Maximum Depth:

75 feet

% of water less than 15 feet:

59%

Acres less than 15 feet:

1,199 acres

Age:

8,000 years old

Water Clarity:

16.5 feet

Current Lake Level

1207.56

Public Landing

Southwest shore

Miles of shoreline:

9.4 miles

Width

2 miles

Length

3 miles



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Are We Learning Anything from High Water?

George Santayana is known to have said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Don't believe me? Then put your dock out too far, again, like I did this year.

So what do the records say about past water levels on Lake Edward? Through our website, I retrieved all the historic records for Lake Edward from the MN DNR Lake Finder. There have been 1,045 readings of lake levels on Lake Edward, nearly all in the past 47 years. For one thing, I noticed that past lake levels have not often stayed above or below the average elevation of 1206.47 for more than a few years at a time. More often, moderately high water levels are corrected in less than a year.

What is one lesson learned from our past water levels? Change is our watch word. Look for change. Expect change. American meteorologists predict change. More extreme weather is expected in a big way over the next 50 years. These extreme events will be at both ends of the spectrum, much wetter and dryer, more extreme hot and cold and more violent storms. I believe that. In 2011-2012, a string of long-standing records have been broken in the US for cooler, hotter, wetter, dryer and more intense. We're not talking Armageddon here, just weather that Americans have not experienced before. But we are a resilient people.

So what? Well, if this moderate wet spell has us in a tizzy, I suspect our reaction to future more intense weather will be increasingly unpleasant. So let's learn from this. Change is our watch word. Let's manage our beach and yard areas differently, to withstand changing water levels, as if we realize that water levels will change and more often. The outlet culvert under CR 4 was never intended and is not physically capable of keeping water levels perfectly stable on Lake Edward. The outlet is intended only to help drop unusually high water levels to normal, faster than what would have happened naturally. So let's set up our docks to be more fool proof, perhaps with wheels, as if we realize water levels will change. Let's offer to help our neighbors, as if we realize more help will be needed. Let's be more alert to increasingly violent storms and greater rainfall events. Or on the other hand, we can blame the County or others for our own lack of preparedness. Or we can just ignore the predictions of our smart people and be doomed to our fate, as Santayana warns. I recommend being prepared and cooperative.

LECC Board of Directors

Officers

President	Herb Nelson
Vice President	Jay Beebe
Secretary	Pat Townsend
Treasurer	Wayne Henquinet

Directors

Ray Stotka	Mabel Schultz
Don Rother	Lynn Hansch
Sue Jordan	

Committee Chairs

Aquatics	Herb Nelson
Fisheries	Dave Christensen
Planning and Zoning	Sue Jordan
Water Quality & Quantity	Don Rother

Webmaster Liz Hintze

Newsletter Editor Ron Czerepak

The ballots are counted and the results are in. Two new directors are now in office and representing us on the board. Elected at our June meeting were, Mabel Schultz and Lynn Hansch. Retiring from the board are Sharon Ingvaldstad and Richard Lorensen. Thanks Sharon and Richard for your time serving as directors. There will be six open board positions in 2013. Also, director Sue Jordan will be resigning at our August meeting. We are looking for someone to complete Sue's term. Sue has been a vital part of the LECC for many years. Thanks Sue for all you've done. If you are interested in serving on the board or filling Sue's position contact Lynn Hansch, 651-4547798.





Lake Level

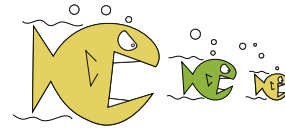


Don Rother, chair of the Water Quality and Quantity committee, has religiously been recording lake levels for the past 3 years. Don weekly visits the public landing and records lake level data based on the gauge located at the access. Each spring the DNR comes out and places the gauge in the water. Once in the water, the zero elevation for the gauge is measured by surveying equipment. The zero elevation this year is 1205.42. Add the gauge reading to the zero elevation to get the elevation of the lake. Except for being nudged by a boater entering or exiting the lake, the gauge is able to provide reliable data that Don uses to convey to the Thirty Lakes Watershed District. Lake Edward has many springs and seepage areas but just one outlet. Lake levels are determined by ground water entering the lake by runoff from the 8000 surrounding acres. The water draining from these 8000 acres replenishes the lake and maintains the water level. About 10% of input is lost to evaporation and transpiration by plants. Up to 20% to 40% of input can be lost to seepage depending on conditions. That's why the lake only goes up 2" for a 4" rainfall.

During Don's journeys around the lake he has also noted there are two nesting sets of loons on the lake this year.

Remember the Smokey the Bear slogan, "Only you can prevent forest fires." That slogan may well apply to zebra mussels if we change "forest fires" to "zebra muscles." There is growing speculation that lake shore owners can have a huge impact preventing zebra mussels from entering our lake. Property owners may be the best defense against this nasty invader. A new theory gaining traction is that the spread of zebra mussels is caused by the purchase of used boat lifts and docks and other equipment that has not been properly cleaned before placing in the water. Quarantining the equipment for 21 days kills all organisms as does cleaning the equipment with hot water. Please be especially cautious if you purchase used equipment. Clean first before using. Oh, and don't forget to Clean, Drain and Dry your boats as the signs say. If we all follow both procedures we may be able to stop our lake from these advancing foreign invaders.

Thinking about updating your faulty septic system? Now might be the perfect time for such a project. Low interest loans are available for folks replacing or improving their existing septic system. Faulty septic systems have a huge impact on the water quality of our lake. Check out our LECC web site for more information on these low cost loans.

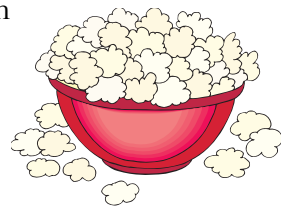


Fish Fry

No, not the Friday night all you can eat kind these are tiny walleye that are used for stocking purposes. Fry are the size of mosquitoes. As reported by Dave Christionson, our LECC Fisheries chair, the DNR stocked 2 million fry in Lake Edward in early May. It takes fry about four to five years to get big enough to catch. Fingerlings are larger than fry and have a better chance of surviving but lakes aren't stocked with fingerlings because it is cost prohibitive. Nobody knows the success of each year's stocking until the DNR conducts a creel census a few years down the road. The next census is scheduled for 2014. Based on the size of the fish and quantity counted they can then determine which years hatch lead to successful stocking. The fry stocked in the lake come from a hatchery near Brainerd. The one pound walleye you caught this summer was probably stocked in 2007 or 2008.

Rated "S" for Scary

Pop some popcorn sit back and watch the 25 minute excellent video on the internet produced by local residents, the Linders, called "Aquatic Invasive Species - Minnesota Waters at Risk." The video was rated five out of five stars by those who viewed it at the membership meeting in June. This impressive video, paid for by MN Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, not only is informative but also instructional. Check it out on You Tube. To view the production either enter the web address, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IobWB1yZm8> in a google search or just go to the You Tube main site and enter Aquatic Invasive Species - Minnesota Waters at Risk, in the search box.





Pot Luck at Cozy Bay

Meet old friends, make new friends, find out where the fish are biting, greet new residents, exchange summer stories, talk about the weather, compare fish tales, complain about the geese, relax, enjoy, laugh and share a bite to eat come September. Again this year, the folks at Cozy Bay have graciously offered their resort to host a pot luck get together for lake residents. Bring a dish to share with the group. Expect friendly conversation, good food and sociability. You won't be disappointed.

Thanks Lori Nelson and Sharon Rother for organizing this annual event. Join us on Saturday, September 8 at 5:00. Bring a dish to share and a bingo prize or two. Friends are welcome. Check our web site for any last minute information.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Some of you reading this newsletter may have forgotten to renew you membership or want to become a member to support the group's activities financially with your dues. To renew current memberships or to become a first time member please send a check for \$15.00 to: LECC P.O. Box 134 Merrifield MN 56465-0134. Being a LECC member is important to the health and well being of the lake. Increased membership gives us a stronger voice when working with Government to take care of issues on or near the lake.

Name _____ Lake Edward Phone # _____

Lake Edward Address _____ E-mail address _____

Other address, if applicable _____ () New member () Renewal

Calendar

August 18th, 2012

LECC Open Board Meeting
8:00 a.m. Merrifield Marathon
Building. All are welcome.

September 8, 2012

Pot Luck at Cozy Bay 5:00. All
are welcome.

November 28, 2012

Guesstimate on ice covering the
lake



Lake Edward Conservation Club

P.O. Box 134

Merrifield MN 56465-0134