



Lake Edward Lines

Newsletter of the Lake Edward Conservation Club

KEEP LAKE EDWARD HEALTHY

Shore Soil Contents:

100% Sand

Weed Line:

14 to 17 feet

Maximum Depth:

75 feet

Elevation:

1,203 feet

Water Clarity:

12 feet

Public Landing:

Southwest shore

Width:

2 miles

Length:

3 miles



LECC WEBSITE ADDRESS

<http://edwardlake.wordpress.com>

Lake Edward DNR ID 18030500

Annual LECC Pot Luck and Bingo

The annual Lake Edward Pot Luck and Bingo event will be held on Saturday, September 27th at 5 pm. The owners of Cozy Bay Resort, again, will host this fun event. All are welcome, come and socialize, meet your neighbors and have a good time. Bring a dish to share and a white elephant gift to be used for Bingo prizes. Fun, food, beverages, conversation and laughter is a recipe for a real good time. See you there, bring a neighbor. Everyone left a winner last year.

June General Membership Meeting Review

The general membership meeting was held on June 16th at the Merrifield Marathons Center. Committee chairs reported on their specific areas. Some highlights: Don Rother, Water Quality, high water affects the clarity of the water because of all the nutrients that wash into the lake. Ralph Morgan, Outlet Ditch 13, nature has more to do with keeping ditch 13 open than any other factor. Fisheries, Dave Christenson, DNR survey of fish populations in Lake Edward will be completed the second week of July. Lynn Hansch and Herb Nelson, Invasive Species, a complete a thorough mapping of the lake bottom to establish a base line for curlyleaf pondweed should be wrapped up by the end of June. Liz Hintz, webmaster, if there is any interest, Facebook could be used to communicate with members.

Fishing with Jerry and Dave

Jerry lives on the lake and when not at work is either ice fishing, fishing from his pontoon or hunting, depending on the season. Dave is a seasonal resident and fishes often. Both have plenty of experience wetting a line in Lake Edward. Here is a Q and A with Jerry and Dave about their fishing experiences on the lake.

	Full time / Jerry	Seasonal Dave
How many years have you lived on the lake.	We moved here in 1999.	We've been seasonal residents since 1974
How often do you get out fishing?	Once every couple weeks.	About every other weekend.
Do you fish other lakes?	Only this lake.	Not often but occasionally.
How has the fishing been this summer?	Very slow.	Poor, I haven't had much success this summer.
Over the years have you noticed any patterns.	More bass and northerns and less walleye.	Walleye fishing has gotten worse since I've been fishing the lake.
What do you fish for?	Panfish and walleye.	Walleye, bass and panfish.
What time of day do you like to fish?	Evenings	My preference is evenings.
What is the biggest fish you've caught on the lake.	A 26 inch walleye was the biggest I caught.	My biggest walleye measured out at 28 inches.
How long do you spend on the lake when the fish aren't biting?	About an hour.	If nothing is biting I'm usually back in an hour.
What is the most unusual fish you've caught?	Dogfish	
What is your favorite season to fish?	Winter by far.	I like spring the best.
Have any advice for someone going fishing?	Move often to different spots.	My advice would be to fish in the low light hours of the day.
How long did it take you to find out where the hotspots are in the lake?	About a month.	Not long at all. The first time fishing the lake I was successful.

DNR Lake Census



The DNR has Lake Edward, and all other surveyed lakes, on a six year rotation for conducting a fish census. All lakes used to be on a five year rotation but for budget reasons have been moved to six year rotations. July 14 was a busy time on the lake as the DNR was sampling fish populations with gill nets and trap nets. You may have seen the DNR buoys, similar to the one on the left floating that week in different parts of the lake. Gill nets are used in deep water and trap nets in shallow water. Each has a different purpose. One is designed to catch large fish, gill nets, and the other designed to catch smaller fish like panfish, trap nets. The trap net looks like a huge minnow net and is a live trap anchored to shore and placed about fifty feet out. The gill nets are about 210 feet long and have five meshes about fifty feet long and are placed six feet off the bottom. Each day for five days the crew leaves the traps overnight and moves them the next morning. Locations are consistent from one survey year to the next so the results will be consistent. The first day three gill and three trap nets are placed then the

next day those traps are moved and another gill and trap net added. So, the second through fifth days have four gill and four trap as opposed to the first day with three and three. Fish taken in the gill net do not survive but serve an important purpose, a sampling of the fish are sent to the DNR site in St. Paul to be analyzed for chemical analysis, to determine mercury levels. The trap net, similar to a large minnow scoop, is a live trap and the trapped fish are released back into the lake. Results from this survey are scheduled to be completed by April of 2015 so they can be posted on the lake finder DNR site before opening of fishing in 2015. Preliminary results indicate that there probably isn't much change from the last census but final more detailed results will be available. The DNR completed their survey of the lake, July 18th. The last survey was in 2008 and the one before that in 2002. It might not come as a surprise to you to learn that since the census in 1992 some patterns have emerged. First, the walleye population has shrunk quite a bit, from 12.3 per net in 1992 to 3.07 in 2008. Second, the northern population has dramatically increased from 2.17 in 1992 to 15.0 in 2008. The perch population has seen the same drastic decrease as the walleye population, from 13.67 in 1992 to .87 in 2008. What does this all mean? Well, for one thing we have way too many small northern in the lake that are doing what they do best, being a predator. Raising the daily limit to a higher number would help. In the meantime harvest as many hammerhandles as you can. The fellow I talked to at the DNR said the lakes that have the largest northers have fewer of them and the lakes with the smallest northers have many of them.



Speaking of the DNR and fish. This year as in the past, the DNR stocked the lake. Two million fry were dumped in the lake in hopes of ending up on someone's hook. Fry is the most economical way to stock a lake. One million fry cost about \$8,000 dollars so \$16,000 dollars worth of fry were dumped in Lake Edward. The survival rate for the fry is about 5%. Another option, not often used but with a higher survival rate, is to stock a lake with walleye fingerlings. To stock the lake with two million fingerlings would cost about two million dollars. No wonder the DNR chooses fry.



This brief history was in the newsletter a few years ago but questions about how long the organization has been in existence came up at the annual meeting so a review might be in order. Also, new members might find this information useful.

The Lake Edward District Conservation Club, Inc. was formed and officially incorporated in 1949. Its primary focus at that time was to enhance the fishing and hunting for the residents on and around the lake and to support those enforcing game laws. The organization was successful but in later years failed to meet and function organizationally. In 1994, the organization was reactivated and a new board elected. The name was changed by dropping *district*. It is now officially Lake

LECC

Edward Conservation Club, Inc. (LECC) and annual reports are filed with the Minnesota Secretary of State. Membership is granted to those living on the lake permanently or part time and to those interested persons living in the area or using the lake. The LECC essentially functions as a lake association. Two meetings are held each year. The annual membership meeting is held in June and an open board meeting is held in August. Attendance at both meetings is encouraged and welcomed.

Loon Report

Don Rother, our Water Chair, is the official amateur loon spotter on the lake. He reported three breeding pair of loons sighted this year with each pair sporting a family of two. The past few years this has generally been the pattern, two or three pair nesting on the lake raising a family. The number of nesting loons on a lake is determined by how much cover exists. Loons won't set up a nest within sight of another breeding pair.

Lurking predators below the surface of the water are always a threat to the young loons as well as a soaring eagles from above, which capture quite a few. An occasional boater buzzing around doesn't do much good either. The survival rate of the young is about 25%. Loons become breeding age when they are seven years old. Until that age they hang out together.

The baby loons you may have seen on the lake this summer you won't see again for quite a while. A young loon migrates to the Gulf of Mexico or the east coast and spends the first three winters of it's life in saltwater. The adults are the first to fly south with the young following later. The journey south follows a pattern. They stop at large bodies of water along the way. As many as a thousand can be seen at Mille Lacs, one of their first stops in their voyage, the Great Lakes is another stopping off point. They forage for food on the Great Lakes in water down to 150 feet. From there they head to their winter home.

It's a treat to see a loon because they are solitary, somewhat rare and such beautiful birds. Rarely are loons sighted in large numbers other than when getting ready to fly south so it was an unusual sight to see a flock of them so often this summer on the lake. You may have noticed the dozen or so that would group together. This unusual sight is rare, but explainable. The DNR loon specialist, when contacted, said they probably were feeding. If they group together in the fall, they are getting ready to fly south.

Black flies were an enormous problem for loons this year. DNR folks found out the oil in the loons feathers attract black flies in hoards. The black fly hatch and the hatching of young this year coincided to create a huge problem for loons driving them from their nests.



Rare Sight

Here's a rare sight captured last spring. Might be even rarer than sighting loons. Ten pelicans stopping on Lake Edward for a break before moving on.



We saw a display at the County Fair about sampling arsenic in wells around Pelican Lake. High levels of arsenic were found in a well about one-quarter mile north of Lake Edward. Being curious, we picked up a sampling kit at the fair. We took a water sample from our kitchen faucet along with \$20 to AW Research labs located at the airport. The results are that we have low levels of arsenic in our well. We have 1.78 micrograms per liter and less than 10 is acceptable. If you have infants or other sensitive people at your house, you may wish to consider buying bottled water for awhile or install an under-the-sink reverse osmosis type filter. We also tested for bacteria and nitrates like everyone should about every 3 years. Our well is also safe from these concerns. Herb Nelson, President, Lake Edward Conservation Club





PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Busy summer? You bet. The lake association has trapped 11 beavers; removed 2 beaver dams and countless debris from outlet; published a directory; got county funding & collected water quality samples; measured lake elevations; mapped curly leaf pondweed (CLP); helped DNR search for CLP; snorkeled to remove over 100 CLP plants and 60+ turions; contacted the state, county and watershed district numerous times about the plugged outlet and high lake levels; got county funding and placed AIS inspectors at the boat landing; got DNR AIS signs for resorts and owners' associations; & got county funding for AIS sign posts. There is still more to come, like the fall social. If you or your grandkids like nature videos, we continue to recommend the DNR's 25-minute video called "Aquatic Invasive Species, Minnesota Waters at Risk. The video is available at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquatic/index.html>. The underwater video is amazing and explanations are clear. Don't forget to relax.

Herb Nelson
President, Lake Edward Conservation Club

The LECC is a 501c(3) nonprofit if anyone wants to donate to help support our projects. Donations would be appreciated and are tax deductible.

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RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

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. Your membership dues are tax deductible as are any donations to the organization.

Name _____

Lake Edward Address _____

Lake Edward Phone # _____

Other address, if applicable _____

E-mail address _____

☐ New member

☐ Renewal

LECC Board of Directors

Officers

President Herb Nelson
Vice President Lynn Hansch
Secretary Pat Townsend
Treasurer Wayne Henquinet

Directors

Ralph Morgan Mabel Schultz
Don Rother Open seat
Ron Czerepak Dave Christenson

Committee Chairs

Invasive Species Herb Nelson
Fisheries Open seat
Planning and Zoning Open seat
Water Quality & Quantity
Don Rother

Outlet Ralph Morgan
Webmaster Liz Hintze

Newsletter Editor Ron Czerepak

After many many years of flat dues the membership at the annual meeting voted to gradually raise dues to bring them in line with neighboring lake associations and allow the LECC flexibility to deal with issues as they come up. For example, this year the mapping of the lake bottom for curlyleaf pondweed required some special software that can interpret the sonar waves and convert them to specific sites in the lake. This information is critical to establish a base line to see if the problem over time is getting worse, staying the same or getting better. The necessary software and hardware to conduct this survey was paid for by dues. The beaver trapper is paid for trapping beavers with dues. Bottom line dues for the last 12 years have been \$15.00, however, beginning next year dues will increase \$5.00 to \$20.00. That comes to less than six cents a day.



Thank you Dave Christenson for your many years of service charing the Fisheries committee. Dave is giving up his chairmanship on the Fisheries committee to serve the remaining term of a board chair who moved from the area. Dave's committee chair position, in turn, is open. If interested in volunteering contact Herb Nelson 218-765-4001 (cell) 651-239-4860 for more details.

Directories Still Available



If you didn't have a chance to pick up your directory at the June annual meeting your copy is still available. Club. To pick up your copy call Herb Nelson. Herb's address is

25389 Bluebonnet Road, just off Highway 3. His phone number is (cell) 651-239-4860 (home) 218-765-4001. Call ahead or email, herbnelson@brainerd.net to make arrangements for pick up.



Lake Edward T Shirt

Liz Hintze surveyed the membership at the annual meeting to see if there was any interest in any Lake Edward logo apparel. Not surprisingly many expressed an interest in purchasing a shirt when they become available. When the design logistics are worked out Liz will post purchase information on the LECC web site. One possible design would have the outline of the lake in the center of the t shirt and the lake name printed across the top or another design might have the lake name on the back and the lake on the front. The final design selected will display the lake and name in some way. Thanks Liz.

Calendar

September 27th, 2014 - 5:00

Pot luck and Bingo at Cozy Bay Resort. Bring a dish to share and a white elephant gift to donate for Bingo prizes.



Lake Edward Conservation Club

P.O. Box 134

Merrifield MN 56465-0134