



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

Size:

2,032 acres

Miles of Shoreline:

9.4 miles

% of water less than 15 feet:

59%

Acres less than 15 feet:

1,199 acres

Age:

8,000 years old

Boat Ramp:

Concrete

LECC Annual Meeting

The Lake Edward Conservation Club annual meeting will be held at the Merrifield Marathons Center from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on June 21, 2014. All are welcome to attend. Refreshments to follow the business portion of the meeting. Anyone with agenda items contact Herb Nelson 218-765-4001. The Merrifield Marathons Center is located on County Road 3, South of Merrifield. Annual dues for the LECC are \$15.00 per property owner. Dues are due January 1. Not a member? The application to join is on page four of this newsletter. Thanks for your support. Dues paying members get a copy of the new directory. Pick up your new lake owners directory at the meeting.

Lake Trivia

What famous Chicago gangster robbed a bank in Brainerd in 1933 and was said to have stashed the loot in the Lake Edward area? Answer on page 5 of this newsletter.

Only You Can Prevent

Did you fill in the blank with “forest fires”? Only you can prevent forest fires was a common and often used phrase many years ago. In 1944 the Forest Service introduced a bear as their campaign symbol. Smokey the bear pointed directly at the viewer when repeating that phrase. With a little twist that phrase can be modernized and used today, not for fires but for invasive species. Only you can prevent invasive species from entering Lake Edward. Why you? Gaining traction is the theory that lake shore property owners are more responsible for the spread and containment of invasive species than boats launched at a public access, a current popular theory. Used equipment like docks and boat lifts may contribute more to the spread of invasive species than any other means. That’s why it might be appropriate to say, “Only you can prevent invasive species from entering Lake Edward”. Be cautious when purchasing any used equipment that enters the water. Visual inspection is important but the culprits are tiny and often hard to find. The surest way to ensure the equipment you put in the lake is safe is to place it in quarantine for twenty one days. A small price to pay for a clean lake.



Power



Loading

"**Power loading**", can cause damage to launch ramps that may not be visible from the surface of the water. "Power loading" is a term used to describe using the motor to load and unload the boat onto and off the trailer. **There is some evidence of damage from power loading at the Lake Edward boat ramp.** Many of the state's 3,000 public launch ramps were not designed to sustain the forces generated by today's larger and more powerful boats or the practice of power loading. Propeller wash creates a significant force that can erode the lakebed and create a large hole at the end of the ramp. Eroded material is often deposited beyond the ramp to create a mound, which can result in a barrier for launching and loading. Boats and equipment can incur damage if the boat or lower unit runs aground on the mound or if the trailer becomes stuck in the hole. In the worse cases, the end of the ramp could collapse, resulting in an unusable launch ramp. In low water conditions the mound created from propeller wash can obstruct launching and loading.

DNR crews have been busy rehabilitating damaged launch ramps statewide. Staff are repairing the holes and extending the ramps by adding additional concrete planks. When possible the mounds are leveled with excavation equipment. These launch ramp repairs are time consuming and expensive.



The DNR recognizes that some boaters are accustomed to power loading. However, it is preferable that boaters do not race their engines while on the boat ramp. Slightly more than idle speed should be all that is necessary to load and/or unload the boat. The best practice is for boaters to refrain from power loading and use the winch to load and unload their boat.



Hammer-handles

This area is popular because of the recreational opportunities it offers. The lakes in our area offer a valuable resource providing boating and fishing opportunities. With more and more people taking advantage of the recreational possibilities and the rapid rise of technology more pressure is put on fish populations. Old photos show stringer after stringer of large walleyes caught in the lakes in our area. Landing a lunker isn't as easy as it once was. A researcher having studied the problem for many years has come to a theory. He believes he knows why there are smaller and fewer walleye in our lakes. The theory that is gaining traction has to do with northerns specifically hammer-handle northerns. The more hammer-handle northerns in a lake the smaller and fewer the number of walleye exist. Large population of small northerns don't allow walleye to survive past their second autumn, or sunfish or perch for that matter. In fact one of the many new regulations for increasing the number of walleye on Mille Lacs establishes a northern limit of ten instead of the present three. The theory being walleye might have a fighting chance if there were less predators to eat them. There is no reason this theory doesn't hold for all lakes. Since Lake Edward has the perfect spawning grounds for northerns it might apply even more here. If harvesting more hammer-handle northerns to reduce their populations will have an positive affect on walleye down the road it might be advantages to try and max out on the limit of northerns when you are fishing our lake. Solving one problem, too many small northerns, may lead to another, what to do with all those hammer-handles. The internet is loaded with videos on removing "Y" bones from a northern, a major complaint of northerns. Just do a search on removing "Y" bones and take your pick of videos. Don't want to deal with the "Y" bones? There are numerous pickling recipes as another option. The internet provides information on pickling too. Oh, and by the way the other aspect of the hammer-handle theory is to catch and release all large pike. Large pike bring stability to a lake. They keep small pike numbers under control. The daily limit didn't change on Lake Edward it is still three.



Don't get too excited



You may have seen articles about a chemical, Zequanox, a control agent to contain zebra mussels. The agent contains dead bacterial cells. When a zebra mussel eats them it's digestive tract is disrupted leading to the mussel's death. The excitement of the discover of this agent must be tempered with the realization that Zequanox has proven to be effective only in small applications. It would be unrealistic to think it could be used to control mussels throughout an entire lake. According to the inventor, don't hold your breath waiting for this research solution to arrive, because it is a least a decade away. In addition it is an extremely expensive chemical unaffordable by any lake association. The best strategy continues to be control. Be wary of everything that you put in the lake.



Invasive Species Timeline

Curly leaf pond weed was introduced in Minnesota in 1910.
Zebra mussels were first identified in the Crow Wing County in 2003 in Ossawinnamakee.
Eurasian Milfoil was first found in our area in 1991 in Bay Lake.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As I sit here drafting this report, the lake ice looks dark like it might be gone by May. There was plenty of snow on the ice, making it tough to ice fish. But the snow cover was a good thing in one way. Curly leaf pondweed (CLP) is an exotic species in Lake Edward that grows under the ice all winter. But even CLP needs sunlight, so the snow cover should have helped keep out CLP crop in check. I say should have, but we really don't know. We plan to use Lowrance depth finders to survey CLP this spring to produce accurate maps of CLP. More on that later. Lori Nelson has produced a directory of lakeshore owners. Dues paying members get a free copy at the June meeting or at my house. Please attend the annual meeting on June 14 at 10 AM at the Merrifield Marathoners Club across from Super America.

A presentation of CLP will be part of the agenda on May 14th at the annual meeting.

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.

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

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Newsletter Editor Ron Czerepak

You are receiving this newsletter with funds the LECC board designated for postage and paper and paid for from our budget generated by member dues. The good news is dues will remain the same in 2014, no increase. Our dues have not increased in ten years and continue to be modestly priced. Dues come to a mere 4 cents a day. In addition this year a Lake Edward Property Owners' Directory is included with the membership. Even more bang for your buck. Pick up your copy at the annual meeting or at Herb Nelson's house.

Before you forget, why not cut out the membership form to the left and drop it in the envelope provided with a check for \$15.00 made out to LECC and cross that off your list of things to do.



Trivia answer from question on page 1

Baby Face Nelson and his gang robbed the First National Bank of Brainerd in 1933. All five escaped with \$32,000 in a flurry of bullets. They had cased the bank for at least ten days before the robbery while staying at a resort on Round Lake. At least one report had the bandits stashing the loot in the Lake Edward log School House. The school was located, at the time, between Mollie and Lake Edward.



There are many organizations whose purpose is to protect the quality of the lakes in our state. One such organization is LARA, Lakes and Rivers Alliance. We are members of LARA and LARA in turn is a member of the Minnesota Coalition of Lake Association, a statewide citizen network of County Lake and River Associations. LARA represents 38 lake associations in Crow Wing County, which actually comprises approximately 74 different lakes. The new updated LARA web site is www.CrowWingLARA.org



Q: I just bought a personal watercraft. Are there restrictions on the hours I can operate it?

A: Yes, operation of personal watercraft is allowed only from 9:30 a.m. to one hour before sunset. For more rules and regulations regarding personal watercraft, go to www.mndnr.gov/regulations/boatwater.

-Kara Owens, DNR boat and water safety specialist

It's not uncommon for lakeshore property owners to return to their cabins in the spring to find damage to their shoreline, docks, boat lifts, retaining walls and sometimes to the cabins themselves. What causes this?

This type of property damage is caused by a phenomenon called "ice heaving" or "ice jacking." As ice freezes and thaws, cracks form because of the different contraction rates at the top and bottom of the ice sheet. This is especially true in years when there's a lack of insulating snow cover. When water rises in cracks and freezes, the ice sheet expands slightly. Rising air temperatures warms the ice, which causes the additional expansion to exert a tremendous thrust against the shore. This powerful natural force forms a feature along the shoreline known as an ice ridge. These ridges can sometimes reach as high as five feet or more. Additional warming and cooling of an ice sheet can cause additional pushing and exert enough pressure to nudge bridge masonry piers out of plumb and push houses off their foundations.

For more information, including specifics about when a repair permit is needed, contact Crow Wing County Land Services.

Land Services phone number 218 - 824-1125.

Late breaking news.

For the tenth year in a row LECC dues remain the same. NO INCREASE.

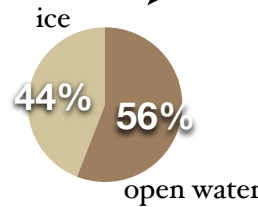


Your Lake Edward Directory Now Available



Dues paying members may pick up their 2014 Lake Edward property owners directories at the annual meeting June 21st at the Merrifield Marathon Club. If you can't attend the annual meeting pick up your copy at Herb Nelson's home. 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.

It's been a long long winter. Ice covered the lake on November 23rd and was off on May 2. That's 161 days with ice on and 204 with open water. Last year the ice lingered on two weeks longer until May 14th. The graph to the right shows ice was on the lake 44% of the year. It really was a long winter.



Earliest ice out ---- March 26, 2012 / Latest ice out ----- May 14, 2013

News Flash.

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Calendar

November 23 2013 Ice On

May 2, 2014 Ice Free

May 10 Fishing Opener

June 21, 2014

LECC Annual Meeting 10:00 a.m. Merrifield Marathon Building

All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

August 16th, 2014

LECC Open Board Meeting 10:00 a.m. Merrifield Marathon Building



Lake Edward Conservation Club

P.O. Box 134

Merrifield MN 56465-0134