



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

What is it?

Answer on page four of
this newsletter.



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 20, 2015. 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 \$20.00 per property owner. Dues are due January 1. Not a member? The application to join is on page two of this newsletter. Thanks for your support.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Lake Edward is currently about 8-10 inches above its long-term average elevation. Some people think the lake elevation is too high, but some like it the way it is. What do you think? Ditch 13 was constructed about 100 years ago and is the outlet from Lake Edward. Should Crow Wing County repair Ditch 13 to help lower higher water levels faster on Lake Edward? The county will schedule a public information meeting on this topic sometime this summer which probably will take place at the Lake Edward Township Hall. The county is going through a formal process to consider repairing Ditch 13 because it received a petition from landowners on Lake Edward. The petition triggered the county to begin a detailed process under Minnesota ditch law. We encourage all landowners on Lake Edward to attend the meeting or at least respond to the county's questionnaire that will come in the mail. We've been told the county intends to send invitations and questionnaires to seven hundred-plus potentially benefitted landowners. State law requires the county to assess benefitted landowners for ditch repair costs. The county is not allowed to use general funds to repair any county ditch. Trying to stay nearer to average water levels on Lake Edward may help reduce shoreline erosion for some properties, help protect lake water quality and help improve fishing, some say. Check your mail for updated information from the County. Please attend the county's informational meeting once it has been scheduled.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

To renew current memberships or to become a first time member please send a check for \$20.00 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

LECC membership has been fairly steady for the last few years. This year we are getting a bump in membership. The 27 residents of the Jolly Roger Association decided at their last meeting to join the LECC. The Jolly Rogers group is passionate about the lake and are a welcome addition to our group. Come and meet many of them at our annual meeting on June 20th. Dues for the LECC are \$20.00. That comes to just slightly over five cents a day. Our membership year runs from January to December. If you haven't renewed yet this year, take a few minutes and drop your dues in the enclosed envelope and check that task off your things to do. Those of you that have already renewed, thank you.

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

Shoreline Damage

Q What happened to our shoreline this past winter?

A Actually two factors came into play this winter that affected almost everybody's shoreline. Ice jacking and ice ridges, both are related.

Q What is ice jacking?

A Ice jacking is when the ice shifts during the winter and gets pushed around. It happens during winters with a lack of snow. Snow insulates the ice and with little snow this year the ice became very very cold. With little insulation, snow, the ice expanded noticeably. When the ice is three miles wide the expansion is magnified.

Q What are ice ridges?

A An ice ridge is what happens to the shore when the ice expansion shifts. When the ice moves it has to go some where and this year it pushed the shoreline in all directions. There are two kinds of ice ridges, annual ice ridges and historic ice ridges. Annual ice ridges happen within a calendar year and can be removed without a permit, if the work is completed within the same calendar year. Historic ice ridges occur over a two year period upon which well established vegetation is growing. Historic ice ridges can not be removed without a permit.

Q Which kind of ridge did we experience this winter?

A An annual ridge, the kind that can be removed without a permit.

Q Is what happened this year a rare occurrence?

A It's impossible to predict Mother Nature but check out the picture to the right. It is a little grainy but shows a huge ice ridge. One of our LECC board members, Pat Townsend, found this photo of her grandmother that was taken in the spring of 1939. Notice the ice ridge in the background.

In summary property owners may repair the damage the ice ridges did this year without a permit.

Lake Edward Fisheries Survey

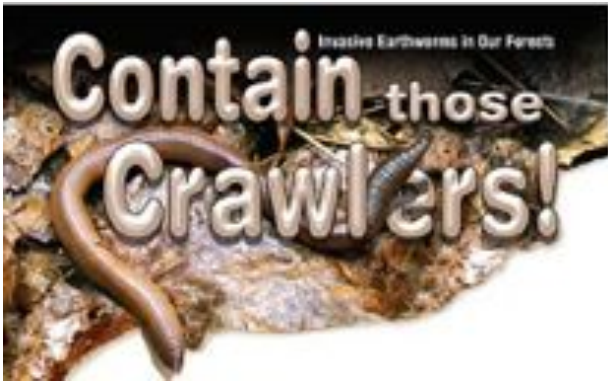
Last summer the DNR conducted a survey on Lake Edward. The last survey was in 2008. The full report can be found on the DNR Lake Finder web site. Here is a sliver of information on the status of the fishery.

- * The northern count was down but the average size was up.
- * Yellow perch were caught in low numbers.
- * The walleye count is up from the last survey.
- * It's odd that the perch count is down but the walleye count was up because yellow perch are important prey species for walleye and northerns.
- * Water quality was described as good.
- * The average northern size was 20.8" and 2.0 pounds.
- * The average walleye size was 17.1" and 2.0 pounds.
- * Walleyes up to 30.6" were captured.
- * Both the walleye and northern populations were average compared to lakes similar in size.
- * The next fish survey is to take place in 2020.



The lady in this ice ridge photo is Martha Van Doren, her husband Orlo, rode a three wheel bike, one wheel in the front and two in the rear, from Minneapolis to their homesteaded property on the north side of Lake Edward at the turn of the century. Martha received a one cent postcard notifying her of his safe arrival. Martha and Orlo started a resort that included five cabins after first establishing a boat building business and farming. Martha and her two daughters cleaned cabins and cooked for the fishermen. Orlo and son Harry guided in the area. Harry became a legendary fishing guide and is still remembered by many in the area. Another boy in the family, Walt, died in a crash of a plane that he built. Van Doren family relics can be viewed at the Nisswa Museum.





What's the big deal about earthworms in Minnesota?

All of the terrestrial earthworms in Minnesota are non-native, invasive species from Europe and Asia (There is a native aquatic species that woodcock eat). At least fifteen non-native terrestrial species have been introduced so far. Studies conducted by the University of Minnesota and forest managers show that at least seven species are invading our hardwood forests and causing the loss of tree seedlings, wildflowers, and ferns.

What can I do to help?

- Don't dump your worms in the woods. It's illegal to release most exotic species into the wild (Minnesota Statutes 84D.06).
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.
- Tell others "the dirt" on invasive earthworms in Minnesota

CLP Curly-Leaf Pondweed

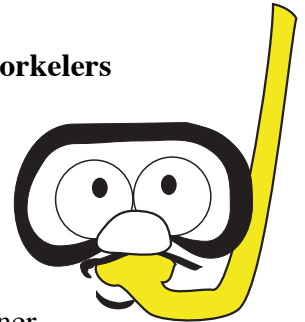
A newsletter in the lakes area wouldn't be complete without some mention or reminder of invasive species. It's appropriate at this time to circle back to Curly-Leaf pondweed. Lake Edward property owners have been fortunate on a lot of fronts when it comes to invasive species because our lake has been relatively clean. Good diligence and monitoring have kept zebra mussels at bay. However, Curly-Leaf pondweed is present and a danger to our water. This weed has been present in our lake for many years but maintained its presence without so far becoming a nuisance. The growing conditions for its expansion have not been ideal in our lake. CLP grows in the winter and needs lots of sunlight. With little snow cover on the ice this year conditions were favorable for its expansion. Last summer a few LECC board members with a depth locator mapped the entire bottom of the lake to establish whether the CLP presence is expanding its scope. They found the largest area of CLP in the southeast corner of the lake. They recorded their results and posted them on the LECC web site. For a comprehensive report check out, LECC Curly-Leaf Pondweed (CLP) Monitoring Project, at



<https://edwardlake.wordpress.com>

Calling All Scuba or Snorkelers

One of the cheapest and most effective methods to rid a lake of CLP is to hand pick them. Our LECC president, Herb Nelson, did just that last year. He concentrated on the southwest corner of the lake and spent an hour one afternoon plucking the weed from the lake bottom in about five feet of water. The job was too big for any one person to handle. We are looking for volunteer snorkelers or scuba divers to help Herb pull CLP plants by hand. The time frame will probably be in late June or early July. Herb would welcome any and all help. Give Herb a call at 218-765-4001 if interested.



What Is It

The item pictured on the first page is a lake gauge. Each spring the DNR places the gauge near the Lake Edward boat landing to insure accurate water level measurements during the season.

The DNR communications team works with agency experts to develop weekly questions and provide answers. This feature addresses current DNR issues, interesting topics, or the most frequently asked questions from around Minnesota.

Q: I'm camping over Memorial Day weekend, and I want to avoid exposure to Lyme disease. How can I prevent tick bites?

A: Lyme disease-carrying deer ticks are most active during Mid-May through Mid-July, so it's important to take precautions when enjoying the outdoors. High-risk areas include hardwood forests, woody/brushy areas and long grass. Here are some tips to prevent tick bites:

- Walk in the center of trails to avoid picking up ticks from grass and brush.
- Wear light-colored clothing so ticks will be more visible. Check and re-check yourself throughout the day.
- Create a barrier to ticks by tucking your pant legs into socks or boots, and wearing a long-sleeved shirt tucked into your pants.
- Use a repellent containing DEET or permethrin, and carefully follow the directions on the container. Permethrin-treated clothing is also available at many sporting goods stores.
- After being outdoors in tick habitat, get out of your clothes immediately, do a complete body check, shower and vigorously towel dry. Wash your clothes immediately as to not spread any ticks around your living area.
- Check pets for ticks, too.

If you find an attached tick, gently remove it with a tweezers. Wash the area and apply antiseptic to the bite. See a doctor right away if you experience a rash, fever, headache, fatigue or other signs of illness. To learn more, visit the DNR website at www.mndnr.gov/insects/deerticks.

Melissa Warhol, DNR safety and risk supervisor

The funny looking contraption in the picture to the right is a northern barrier. Operating this barrier is one of the objectives in the Lake Edward management plan. The goal is to reduce the number of northern pike by limiting their access to a known spawning location. High pike abundance makes walleye management difficult and often results in a poor/small size structure of the pike population. The Brainerd DNR Fisheries installs it annually in early spring (while the lake is still ice-covered) and removes it after the water warms and pike are done spawning. The timeframe varies from year to year, but it is generally in place from early April through early/mid May. Volunteers from the lake association keep it free of vegetation and other debris to maintain water flow out of the lake. The DNR will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of this barrier as well as other management activities through routine surveys and adapt management activities accordingly.

Lake Edward Invasive Species Inspector, Tracy

Last summer the DNR funded invasive species inspectors at boat landings in the state in an attempt to control the spread of invasive species to water not known to harbor the invaders. Tracy was on duty last summer at the Lake Edward boat landing when I had a chance to get his observations on the process. Here is what Tracy had to say.

- * I haven't found anything suspicious on all the boats I've inspected at the Lake Edward landing.
- * My unofficial analysis is that the lake is clean because the lake is relatively free of weeds.
- * Most folks know the procedure and are cooperative.
- * I've run into very few people that are unaware of the process and why we inspect at landings.
- * Since AIS can spread so easily it is important for all to be aware of the dangers.
- * I'm not stationed at one boat landing all the time. I rotate, as do my colleagues, between Crosslake, Mission, South and North Long lake among others.
- * From my experience Lake Edward has a pretty active landing compared to other lakes probably because it is considered a good fishing lake.
- * I work for Crow Wing County Land Services but upload all data I collect to the DNR database.
- * One zebra mussel can lay one million eggs in a summer.
- * Each inspector attends a six hour training class.
- * We work ten hour shifts.
- * I find the more snooty boaters on the big buck lakes.

Good News

The county has increased the number of hours our boat ramp will be monitored by an inspector from 175 hours in 2014 to 400 hours in 2015.





Ice Out !!!

The lake was clear of ice on April 5th this year.

Two million walleye fry were stocked in Lake Edward on opening weekend.

Mailings

Anyone receiving this newsletter and wish to continue to receive future issues, please alert us of any address changes. Call Lori Nelson at 218-765-4001 or email her at herbnelson@brainerd.net. As you might expect with 230 people on the mailing list, keeping accurate information is a challenge and your help is not only appreciated but also saves our organization money in postage.

Fast Fact

Of the 740,000 acres in Crow Wing County approximately 102,000 acres, or 14% is covered by lakes, rivers, and streams. An additional 26% is covered by wetlands.

Calendar

June 20th, 2015 - 10:00-12:00
LECC Annual Meeting
Merrifield Marathon Club

August 8th, LECC Open Board
Meeting 10:00-12:00 Merrifield
Marathon Club

September 26 Lake
Edward Pot -Luck
and Bingo at Cozy
Bay 5:00. Please bring a bingo
prize and a pot luck item to
share. Guests are welcome.



Lake Edward Conservation Club

P.O. Box 134

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