

Newsletter of the Lake Edward Conservation Club ---- LECC

JUNE 2020

Lake Edward Lines

Newsletter of the Lake Edward Conservation Club



LECC WEBSITE ADDRESS

<http://edwardlake.wordpress.com>

Lake Edward DNR ID # 18030500

Jory Danielson, County Highway Maintenance manager is our scheduled speaker at our annual membership meeting. He will update us on the Crow Wing County Highway's salt management plan. Should we care? Actually the salt the county uses in the winter finds its way into area lakes.

Ice Out

Thanks to our volunteer eyes on the lake, Don Rother, we have an official ice out on Sunday, March 12 this year. Thanks Don.

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

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

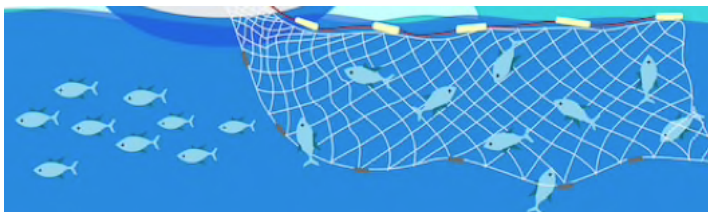
Boat Ramp:

Concrete

Dues Update

Renewal notices were sent out in January and many of you responded. Thank you! It saves us money when we don't have to send out another reminder. Our treasurer, Wayne Henquist's official membership count came in at 134. We are slightly ahead of last years pace. A few of you like to renew in person at our annual June meeting. Unfortunately, that won't be possible this year. Support the LECC and mail a check for \$20.00 to LECC PO Box 134 Merrifield, MN. 56465. 100% of dues go to the enhancements to the lake.

Survey 2020



This year Lake Edward is scheduled to be surveyed by the Fisheries division of the DNR. Will it happen? As of now the answer is we don't know. The decision hasn't been made yet. Lake Edward is considered a high priority lake when it comes to fish survey because of its appeal and ramp access for folks that fish. If things settle down by July 13th, the day scheduled for the survey, it will take place as usual. If July 13th can't happen because of the pandemic restrictions, then later in the summer might work. If things slide to September then it won't happen at all this year, it will be too late. The information gathered that late in the year skews the data making it useless to enter into the data base. How about next year? Well, if it doesn't happen in 2020, then next year is a certainty because of the lake's high priority status. Less desirable lakes on schedule for next year would get pushed back a year or two. What are low priority lakes? Smaller lakes with few cabins, limited access, and little fishing pressure. As with everything at this time there are more questions than answers and we just have to stay tuned and see what happens.

Survey Techniques

Fisheries managers and their crews use various survey techniques appropriate for various fish species or sizes.

- Gill nets: Usually 250 feet long, these nets are used to capture walleyes, northern pike, and yellow perch. Live fish are released after workers take measurements and samples of scales (to be analyzed later to determine fish age). Dead fish are further analyzed for sex, stomach contents, and parasites.
- Trap nets: These smaller nets capture bluegills and other small fish.
- Trawls and shoreline seines: These small-meshed nets are used to capture young fish.
- Electrofishing equipment: Used in streams and rivers, this equipment uses an electrical charge to temporarily stun fish so they can be measured and weighed. It also is used in lakes to survey bass, crappies, and young walleyes.
- Trotlines and angling: These methods are used to survey catfish and other species that often can't be captured efficiently any other way.
- Water analysis: This is used to determine the percentage of dissolved oxygen in water as well as water fertility and clarity.

Covid 19 and Lake Edward



Those of you on the west and south sides of the lake may see two towers very close together lighting up the northeast sky on a clear night. Ever wonder where those towers are and what they are for? The towers are just to the east of Highway 3 only a mile from the now closed restaurant Northwoods Inn. Both towers provide cell service for folks in the area.

Many normal activities that we take for granted in our daily lives have been dramatically impacted by the pandemic racing across the globe. We personally are affected but Lake Edward also is impacted in different ways.



Each Spring the DNR collects eggs and raises them in hatcheries and rearing ponds for release in state lakes. On average two hundred and eighty million fry are dumped in state lakes each year. This year collecting of eggs was cancelled do to the pandemic. Egg collecting is a labor intensive job with six to ten staff working in close proximity and it was determined the operation couldn't be conducted safely. The DNR brainstormed other options but they all involved exposing the workers to unsafe conditions. With no plan to protect the workers, the result is a one year hiatus meaning there will be no eggs collected nor fry raised this year. The one million fry usually dumped into Lake Edward won't happen. What does that mean for the future? In the long term, no fry this year shouldn't have a huge impact on the lake because some years the fry have good years and some not. One bad year shouldn't have lasting implications on future years.

Cormorants

There seemed to be fewer cormorants on Lake Edward last year by my unofficial count. The control plan on Pelican Lake seems to be having a positive effect on Lake Edward. It seems unlikely any control will occur this year.

Ramp it up

Crow Wing County provided us the dates an AIS County paid inspector would be monitoring the Lake Edward boat ramp. Each year we are allocated a specific dollar amount to use at our discretion for AIS monitoring. That funding is appreciated but can only stretch so far. Since the 4th of July this year falls on a weekend it is expected the week before and the week after the 4th will see substantially higher volumes of traffic at the ramp. Anticipating the increased activity, your LECC board voted to use reserve funds to pay for additional boat monitoring. Reserve funds allow us to fund six additional 9 hour days. With the County's contribution and our contribution we will be able to have coverage for the week before the 4th as well as the week following the 4th. Compliance by boat owners is increasing but there still are folks out there that are not aware or don't care about the spread of AIS. The monitors provide education and inspection for the folks that fall into that group. We should have continual coverage at the boat ramp from June 29 to July 8.



Thank You

During the stay at home order you may have noticed a higher frequency of trucks cruising through your neighborhood. Depending on where you live, if you glanced at the side of the truck you would have noticed either the Amazon logo or the familiar brown UPS truck. On line sales are up during the last six weeks and the LECC has seen an uptick in donations from your support through purchases made on Amazon Smile. Purchasing items on Amazon Smile costs nothing to you but helps charitable organizations support their mission. In our case the donations we receive through your purchases help us invest in programs that help protect our beautiful lake. Help us by continuing to choose the LECC as your designated organization. Thank you.

A Go On The 4th

The 4th of July
Lake Edward
parade is a go.



Shouldn't be any trouble social distancing with everyone in their own boat or pontoon. Same procedure as always, we will start near the Cozy Bay Resort and circle the lake clockwise.



President's Report

Things are different this year. I depend more on my computer and cell phone to stay in touch from home. Your lake association (LECC) will also use computers more to communicate news. In order to stay in touch with your lake neighbors, please send your current email address to me at HerbNelson@brainerd.net. We currently have about 220 email addresses.

For the June 13 annual membership meeting, we're planning a virtual meeting on the computer. The process is that a number of days before the meeting, we'll email you to ask whether you want a link to the meeting. Our meeting host will send a link and instructions how to join just before the 9 am meeting on June 13. The meeting agenda includes Jory Danielson speaking on reduced salt use on County roads. We plan to watch a YouTube video that helps explain how and why the County is now using much less salt. It helps protect our fishing and aquatic plants. The agenda also includes reports on our regular LECC projects like water quality, lake levels, Ditch 13, curly leaf pondweed, cormorants and similar topics. Please join us for our first virtual meeting.

Herb Nelson, President, Lake Edward Conservation Club

LECC Board of Directors

Officers

President	Herb Nelson
Vice President	Lynn Hansch
Secretary	Nancy Fischer
Treasurer	Wayne Henquinet

Directors

Don Rother	David Christensen
Ron Czerepak	Tom Schneck
Mike Chapman	

Committee Chairs

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

Outlet Lynn Hansch, David Christensen

Webmaster Liz Hintze

Newsletter Editor Ron Czerepak

Did You Know

Minnesota has more walleye, walleye lakes, and walleye anglers than any other state. Each year, anglers harvest about 3.5 million walleye.

Word Scramble

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to Lake Edward found in this newsletter



d r l c h o i e

Get The Lead Out

A term high school coaches from a certain era would use when a team was running laps was, “Get the lead out”. Lead is a toxic metal that, in sufficient quantities, has adverse effects on the nervous and reproductive systems of animals. Found in most fishing jigs and sinkers, this metal is poisoning wildlife such as eagles, loons, and other waterfowl. Just one lead sinker can poison a loon. Research around the nation has found that lead poisoning from lead fishing tackle is responsible for 12 to 50% of adult loon deaths. The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota has monitored injured bald eagles for lead since 1980. Lead poisoning has been the cause of admission of 315 out of a total of 1,398 eagles, or 23%. Eagles are exposed when they eat fish that have ingested lead tackle. More anglers are using fishing tackle

made from non-poisonous materials such as tin, bismuth, steel, and tungsten. These alternatives



sometimes aren't as easy to find but are available. Anglers can help prevent lead poisoning by seeking out alternatives to lead tackle. Alternatives to lead fishing weights are available.

A great way to help is teaching good stewardship to young anglers. Outfit kids' tackle boxes with non-lead weights. They are nontoxic and safer for youngsters to handle. Plus, inexperienced anglers tend to lose the most sinkers, so you'll be cutting down on the amount of lead getting left behind in Minnesota lakes and rivers. So like my high school coach used to say, “Get the lead out”.

Always wash your hands thoroughly after handling lead sinkers or cleaning out your tackle box. Lead is toxic.



These pebbles and sinkers were found in the gizzard of a lead-poisoned loon from Minnesota. You can see how loons can mistake lost fishing weights for the pebbles they seek to help grind their food. Loons die within two to three weeks after swallowing a lead sinker or jig.

Help

When I was a kid I had an aquarium. If I changed the water and didn't treat the water, the result was tragic. The chemicals in the water were toxic to the fish and needed to be treated for the fish to be safe. Same thing goes for fish in a lake. Those of you my age may remember the pictures in the 60's of fish floating belly up in Lake Erie. Same thing happens if you throw a fresh water fish in saltwater, they end up dead as a doornail. We



wouldn't knowingly ever put something in the water that would be hazardous to the fish swimming under the surface of the lake. Yet, it is happening and we may not even be aware of it.



Salt spread on the roads to melt the ice in the winter ends up somewhere. In the case of the salt spread on

Highways 3 and 4, it finds its way into Lake Edward. If you are the

"letter writer" type, you can take pen to paper and write to the folks representing you at the county and request less salt and safer alternatives be used on the roads in the winter.

Water softeners are another source of salt entering our lake. Nobody wants dingy looking clothes or cloudy glassware or scale build up in pipes, but one of the highest sources of salt leaching into ground water comes from soft water systems. We can't get rid of salt water systems, but we can make sure they are operating properly and efficiently. Only soften the water that needs it. Don't soften water to outside spigots or to cold drinking water taps. Only soften to the optimal hardness – over-softening wastes salt and water and results in excess chloride. If you're using less water because of changes in household size or because you've installed water-efficient appliances and fixtures—and your water softener is on a timer—you may be able to extend the time between regeneration cycles. Less regeneration results in less chloride in wastewater.

If you're buying or upgrading to a new water softener (a good idea if you own an older unit), look for one that is high salt-efficiency and demand-initiated. Though you may pay a little more upfront, you'll save on salt and generate less chloride. Another option is to subscribe to an exchange service. The company delivers soft water exchange tanks to the customer on a schedule determined by

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Help continued from page 7



household size and water hardness level. Removed tanks are regenerated at a special facility, taking the handling of salt and solution discharge out of consumers' hands.

If you are not one of the fortunate ones to winter in a snow free climate, here are some helpful tips to fight chloride pollution.

- * Shovel often to remove snow so less salt is needed to maintain safe walks and driveways.
- * If you need to use salt try using less. A water glassful is enough for a 20 foot driveway.
- * Spread salt evenly using a handheld spreader.
- * Don't use salt if the temperature is below 15 degrees, it's too cold for the chloride to work.
- * Sweep up excess on the pavement before it gets washed into the lake.

June 13 Annual Meeting Online

The basketball and hockey seasons might be cancelled. Baseball postponed. Soccer on hold. Parks and athletic fields closed. State Fair shut down. The list goes on and on. Add the Lake Edward annual June membership meeting to the list, at least as how it has been conducted. To insure the safety of all participants changes are coming to our June meeting. Our meeting in June will be online. Jordy Danielson will still be our guest speaker, as planned, but the format will be different. We hope to stream the meeting for viewing. We will begin at 9:00 on June 13th but you can view the meeting from your home. Expect an email with directions. Unfortunately memberships fees can't be streamed so if you accustomed to paying your yearly dues at the June meeting instead send your \$20.00 membership to

LECC

P.O. Box 134

Merrifield, Mn 56468



Curly Leaf Pond Weed Update

We have a funds set aside to combat the Curly Leaf Pond Weed threat to our lake. The DNR awarded us grant money to help defray the cost of treatment. In the last few years the weather conditions prevented the application being applied. Tim Plude, the Minnesota DNR AIS coordinator, will soon determine if conditions are suitable this year to treat the lake. We have contracted with Ron Duy to apply the treatment once Tim gives the go ahead. Ron will also do mapping of the lake bottom to see if or how much the weed is advancing. The mapping will occur even if treatment isn't applied this year.

Time for a Change?

Is it time for a new water softener at your lake home? Older water softeners use too much salt that drains to your septic system and then with groundwater to the lake. Consider replacing that old water softener with a “demand-initiated” design that measures how much water you’ve used to decide when to start regeneration. Old models regenerate after a set number of days whether it needs to or not. At the Nelson home, the old softener used about 280 pounds of salt a year. Now we use about 120 pounds per year, less than half the old softener. Saves money and less hefting of 40-pound salt bags. The green bags help remove iron so you can use less salt for that purpose. Talk to a knowledgeable building supply store, get your water hardness tested and select a “demand-initiated” model.

How much salt is too much? It takes only one teaspoon of sodium chloride salt to permanently pollute five gallons of water. Once salt is in water, there is no easy way to remove it. For drinking water, a small reverse osmosis unit under

your kitchen sink will work. But not for an entire lake. Fortunately, salt levels in Lake Edward are not that high, according to measurements by Lynn Hansch of our LECC Board working with the County Soil and Water Conservation District.

But we are likely increasing the chloride salt level very slowly in Lake Edward. Fortunately, we have changed a few things and can do more to slow the increase of chloride salt as much as possible so Lake Edward doesn’t end up too salty like some Metro area lakes. Salt into the lake is cumulative over time and doesn’t go away.

According to the MDNR’s Minnesota Conservation Volunteer magazine dated January-February 2020, the likely sources of chloride for lakes include: road de-icing and dust suppressant; water softeners; fertilizers and manure. Our small watershed has almost no agriculture. So we focus on road de-icing, dust suppressant and water softeners.

Road De-Icing: Jory Danielson, manager of the County Highway Maintenance will speak about road de-icing at our virtual June 13 annual meeting at 9 am. Also see YouTube Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?>

Old Water Softener continued from page 9

v=9vIkOTA3kAw which explains how county road managers are changing road de-icing practices to help protect our valuable lakes. Crow Wing County is a voluntary MPCA Level 2 Smart Salting certified organization and plow drivers' application of salt is monitored closely. The YouTube video explains this new process. At the meeting, you can ask Jory specific questions about how the county de-ices its roads while reducing the risk of too much salt getting into Lake Edward.

Suppress Dust: Another concern is that residents of Center Township have requested sodium chloride applications to suppress dust from traffic on Blue Bonnet Road. If you live on Blue Bonnet road, contact the Center Township board of supervisors and ask them to find an alternative to applying chloride salt for dust suppressant near lakes.

Pot Luck and Bingo, Yes or No This Year ?

The Pot Luck and Bingo is a definite no this year. Cozy Bay has closed their common areas for the year. Social distancing dictates we postpone the annual event until next year. Hang on to those white elephant gifts for the winners table. You can dust them off and use them next year.



Good Eating

The fishing opener was slow but the action picked up when the water temperature got warmer a week later.





Dock Talk

Dock Talk is an impromptu stop and chat with folks when motoring around the lake and visiting with someone sitting on their dock.

Nancy is the secretary for the LECC. She shared some of the history she and her husband Roger have with Lake Edward.

Nancy, how many years have you and your husband Roger been on Lake Edward?

Nineteen years ago someone we worked with talked us into buying a camper at Wildwood. We were familiar with the area because we did a lot of business with resorts in the area and we really enjoyed our time here.

Are you permanent or seasonal?

We sold our house in St. Cloud and built on the lake in 2011. We now are permanent residents and it continues to be a good move. We do get away in the winter spending few months in Texas avoiding the snow.

How about family?

We have two grown children, four grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren.

Is there something you like best about Lake Edward?

The lake is peaceful and quiet.

What time of the year do you like the best?

Spring, I can get out and do two of my favorite things, boat and golf.

What is it you like best about the area?

It is a fun and relaxed area with lots to do.

How did you get involved with the LECC?

Our neighbor invited us to join the association so we started by attending the meetings. We got our name on the email list and started to get emails alerting us to what is happening on the lake and to the lake. At that point I was looking to become more involved. The position of secretary became open and I thought that was an area I could be of service. Being involved keeps me informed about what is going on.



\$50 Rebate



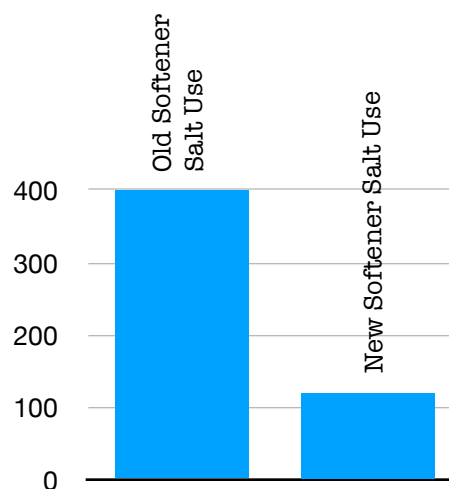
Please consider installing a modern water softener in your Lake Edward place. Many current water softener designs use 70-percent less salt than old softeners. Salt released on shoreline properties can hurt the fishing and ecosystem in Lake Edward. The Lake Edward Conservation Club (LECC) offers a \$50 rebate for the first 20 lake owners to help the defray cost to install your new water softener in your Lake Edward home or cabin.

To redeem this offer, text or email a clear picture of the receipt or invoice for the water softener installation, plus the Lake Edward address where it was installed to Herb Nelson's cell 651-239-4860 or email herbnelson@brainerd.net. Or mail hard copies to LECC, PO Box 134, Merrifield, MN 56465. Also please text your name and your picture standing next to the installed new water softener. Remember to include the name and address for your rebate check. A picture of the model number or control panel of your old water softener would also be helpful. You must install the new softener by August 1, 2021 and the offer is limited to the first 20 lakeshore households responding, one water softener per household. This rebate is funded by some of our LECC dues being put to good use. So keep your \$20 annual dues and donations coming to the address above.

Additional advantages of a new softener are that you buy and carry less salt. New water softeners also handle high iron content better than old softeners so your showers, sinks, laundry and siding don't turn as red. For high iron, remember to use the green bags of salt. When we replaced our old softener, we went

from using over 400 pounds of salt per year to less than 120 pounds. That's almost 300 pounds less salt per year to go through the septic drain field, then into the groundwater and finally into the lake. For 100 households, that would be 30,000 pounds less salt going into the lake each year! The Crow Wing County Soil & Water Conservation District and LECC have found that the salt levels in Lake Edward have begun to increase, but are not yet unhealthy. It's time to take action.

Only one tablespoon of salt permanently ruins 5 gallons of water. Too much salt in the lake harms fishing and the ecosystem that supports clean water. Some Metro-area lakes are already unhealthy from salt-related problems. Because salt is becoming a water problem all across the nation, Crow Wing County Highway Department has substantially reduced its salt use for ice removal on County roads. We have also invited Lake Edward and Center Townships to partner with us by reducing chloride salt use on township roads for dust suppression and ice removal. Encourage your neighbors to join our team to help protect Lake Edward from too much salt.





Test your knowledge.

1. What term does the DNR have for Lake Edward?
 - a) Low priority
 - b) High priority
 - c) No priority
2. Who shares in the cost of AIS monitoring at the boat ramp?
 - a) LECC and the state
 - b) LECC and the county
 - c) The county and the state
3. Why did the DNR cancel egg taking this year?
 - a) The weather was too nasty
 - b) Late ice out
 - c) The corona virus
4. How many fry are stocked in state lakes each year?
 - a) 280 million
 - b) 1 billion
 - c) None only fingerlings are stocked
5. What fishing tackle is considered deadly?
 - a) Bituminous
 - b) Stainless steel
 - c) Lead
6. How many lead sinkers can cause a loon's death?
 - a) A handfull
 - b) One
 - c) Between 8 and 10
7. How does Sodium Chloride enter the lake?
 - a) Through road salt
 - b) From soft water systems
 - c) All of the above
8. What does it cost a buyer to designate the LECC for charitable donations at Amazon Smile?
 - a) 1% of the purchase price
 - b) It is totally free no cost to buyer
 - c) 5% of the purchase price
9. Why might the 2020 fish survey of Lake Edward be postponed?
 - a) Lack of funds
 - b) The pandemic
 - c) It's not our year
10. What percentage of membership dues go to projects to protect Lake Edward?
 - a) 100%
 - b) 90%
 - c) 77%
11. What date is the Lake Edward Pot Luck and Bingo scheduled in 2020?
 - a) Saturday, September 19th
 - b) Cancelled in 2020
 - c) To be determined



Lake Edward Conservation Club

P.O. Box 134

Merrifield MN 56465-0134

Thanks Reggie

The LECC entered into an agreement with RMB laboratories to begin water sampling in May and continue for four more months. The final four payments will be covered by the County. The county will use funds remaining from the defunct Thirty Lakes Watershed District to fund the testing. The first payment is due before the county can arrange for distribution of funds. Reggie Clow has offered to make the May payment to save the LECC from drawing down its funds. Thanks Reggie Clow for picking up the tab for the May water testing this year. Normal sampling is for 5 months starting in May. 2020 data will be added to the database so the long-term climatological statistics are consistent over the years.