

Lake Edward Lines

Newsletter of the Lake Edward Conservation Club

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:

2574 acres

Miles of Shoreline:

9.4 miles

% of water less than 15 feet:

59%

Acres less than 15 feet:

1,199 acres

Age:

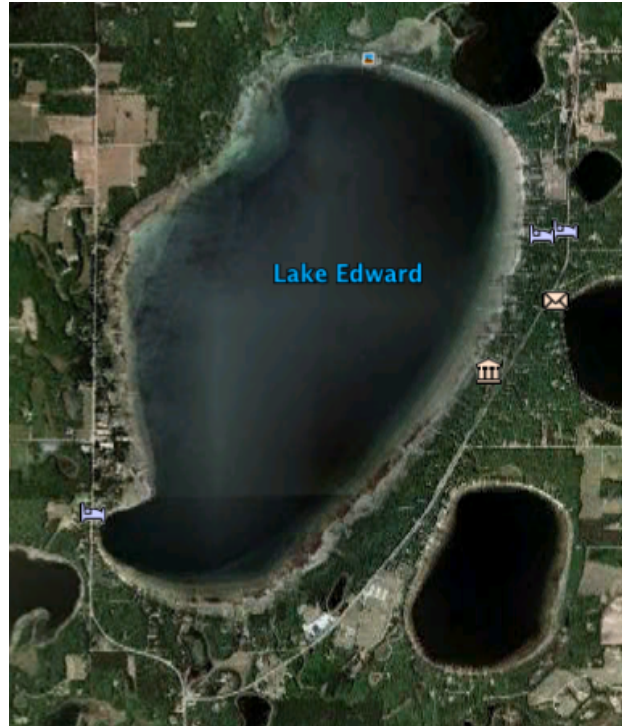
8,000 years old

Boat Ramp:

Concrete

LECC WEBSITE ADDRESS

<http://edwardlake.wordpress.com>



Lake Edward DNR ID # 18030500

Save the Dates

The Spring annual meeting is in the rear view mirror but looking ahead, our next meeting is on the calendar at the Lake Edward Town Hall. Our next meeting will be on August 24th. All are welcome to attend. The meetings begin at 10:00 a.m. preceded by a social time at 9:30. A guest speaker will precede the business portion of the meeting. Be informed. Join us August 24th at the Lake Edward Town Hall.

Herb Nelson successfully served as our president for many years. One of the many services he provided was sending out emails trying to connect owners with lost property. Notifications of dock sections, boat lifts, canoes, flotation devices, paddle boards, and anything not nailed down that was subject to the whim of strong winds came to your inbox. That service will not be lost with his moving on. If you lost an item, send an email with description of the item to our secretary Nancy Fischer and those that provided an email address will know to keep an eye out on the lake for your item. Nancy's email is fischern55@gmail.com



Last year Herb Nelson stepped down as the LECC Board President. It is with heartfelt gratitude that we acknowledge the many years that Herb Nelson served with the LECC. Herb was a hands-on leader and brought a strong passion and stewardship for Lake Edward. A great example of Herb's impact was last year's treatment of curly leaf pondweed. Herb championed the monitoring of curly leaf and when the conditions were right we hired a firm to treat the beds that were found. The treatment was a smashing success and this years lake survey showed only one weed found in the whole lake! Thank You Herb and Lori for everything. I encourage everyone to stop in to our next member meeting Saturday August 24th at the Lake Edward Townhall. If you've never been to an LECC meeting it's a great chance to meet neighbors and learn more about our favorite lake. I hope to see you there.

Paul McCullough
LECC President

LECC Board of Directors

Officers

President	Paul McCullough
Vice President	Lynn Hansch
Secretary	Nancy Fischer
Treasurer	Wendy McCullough

Directors

Paul McCullough	David Christensen
Ron Czerepak	Tom Schneck
Mike Chapman	

Committee Chairs

Invasive Species	Paul McCullough
Fisheries	Paul McCullough
Planning and Zoning	Open seat
Water Quality & Quantity	Mike Chapman

Outlet and County Ditch 13

Lynn Hansch, David Christensen

Webmaster Liz Hintze

Newsletter Editor Ron Czerepak

As a reminder for us folks with short memories and for new folks on the lake here is a brief review of the history of the LECC.

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 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

LECC

persons living in the area or using the lake. The LECC essentially functions as a lake association. The elected LECC board members meet or otherwise coordinate as needed to plan & complete projects.

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.

Clean Clear Pristine Water

Our lake is under attack from a number of fronts. The quality of the lake is as important to the board of the LECC as it is to you. It would be nice if we could turn back the hands of the clock to the days when there were no zebra mussels, no litter to scar the scenic beauty of the lake, no curly leaf pondweed hiding beneath the surface to gum up boating on the lake, no hybrid cattails to crowd out and destroy native cattails, no threat of decreasing water quality, no declining fish populations, no spiny water flea to take over the food chain which reduces food for game fish. Unfortunately, curly leaf pondweed is established and if allowed to take over can cover the lake like a mat and prevent boats from even accessing parts of the lake, hybrid cattails can overtake native cattails and dominate the lakeshore, zebra mussels can litter the beach and stick themselves like superglue to anything in the water, spiny water fleas can disrupt the food chain and eliminate food for game fish. There are no easy or cheap solutions to avoid any of these current threats nor anticipate future threats. We have board member volunteers that monitor and report when things get out of balance but monitoring is not a solution to stop the advance of non native species. A sensible approach is to step in when the data suggests and do what is necessary to prevent the advance of these threats to our lake. So, what does that approach look like? It means checking with the DNR to get permits to treat the water. It means hiring firms with the approved chemicals to treat the water. It means purchasing the instruments to get accurate readings of the water. Your dues help the LECC board be proactive and battle all current and future threats. With money from dues available to address these issues we can make a difference in the quality of our lake. We think \$25.00 is a small price to pay to possibly prevent these attacks from ruining our lake.

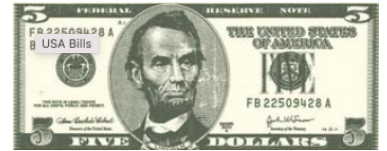
Drop your dues in the mail and Uncle Sam will do the rest.

Dues Form 2024

Please fill out
the form below
and send your
check for
\$25.00 to:



Lake Edward Conservation Club
P.O. Box 134
Merrifield, MN 56465



.....
Name (please print) _____

I am a new member.

☐

I want to renew my membership.

☐

My contact information the LECC has on file is correct, no changes are needed.

☐

Some of my information has changed. My correct information is:

Lake Edward Address _____

Mailing Address _____

Cell phone # () _____

Home phone () _____

E-mail address _____ @ _____

_____ @ _____

.....

This is peak season for lake access monitoring. A few days ago I had a chance to chat with Jon, decontamination person for the county. Jon on this particular weekend was stationed at North Long Lake. We chatted for a few minutes in the rain about the decontamination process the county uses to prevent the spread of invasive species. Jon has been on the job for a season and his schedule moves him to a different lakes each weekend. Lakes are put into categories. High usage lakes are given priority over lakes that see little movement and high access lakes would see the decontamination station more often. That makes sense because the lakes that see a lot of boat traffic are the ones more likely to spread any foreign matter to another lake. The county monitor suggests as folks exit the lake that they take advantage of the opportunity to clean their boat. Most boat owners do exactly that. A few grumpy ones say they don't want to be bothered and to just leave them alone. If the boat owner agrees to the process he or she drives their boat onto the yellow reclaim mat and the monitor sprays the underside of the boat with hot water. Some areas of the undercarriage get a two minute wash with water reaching 120 degrees. Some difficult areas get a blast of 140 degree water for 20 seconds. The hardest vessels to spray are tri tube pontoons that have trailers low to the ground making them a challenge to get under. Much of the water captured on the yellow mat can be sucked back into the tank and recycled to use on the next boat coming out of the lake. If the water can't be recycled and the tanks emptied the operator needs to head back to headquarters to refill the tanks with more water. The county has two mobile units and one permanent station



located in Cross Lake south of town. The DNR also staffs contamination stations and coordinates with the county to efficiently cover as many public landings as possible. Units are in use from nine in the morning to six o'clock on weekends and holidays. Some lake associations

contract for hours not covered by the county schedule. Jon's schedule for the weekend after I talked with him was to cover one of the two public landings on Gull Lake. Another worker was to cover the other landing that weekend. The program first started in 2012 and has expanded to 43 accesses in Crow Wing County.

On the rainy day I chatted with Jon he had time to read a book. He is a voracious reader and usually can read two books a weekend during down times. He expects his

assignments to last until late September or early October if the weather cooperates. At six o'clock he brings the unit back to headquarters and heads home. He reminded me the only prevention for invasive species is to see that they don't get introduced into "clean" lakes in the first place through inadvertent exposure.



We all have heard the dangers of zebra mussels. The extent of the threat really becomes evident when you see it first hand. When I was doing a little beach cleanup last fall prepping for my dock removal I found a fragment of a cement block in the water. I didn't know it was a fragment of a block until later. The object I found was covered in layer after layer of zebra mussels. That small piece of what proved to be concrete had scores of zebra mussels clinging securely to it. Superglue had nothing on these little guys. Any can, rock or bottle left to litter the lake bottom will begin to look the same over time. In over a little more than an hour of cleanup I had more mussels than I could count. I kept putting them in a black bucket and it was overflowing.



Often civic organizations try to raise money by having participants at their events guess the number of “something.” It could be guessing jelly beans in a jar, popcorn seeds in a clear bag, coins in a clear container, the weight of someone before standing on a scale or anything to spark some thought, provide a challenge and raise some money. I thought about trying a “Guess The Zebra Mussel Challenge” with the mussels attached to the partial block I dug out of the water last fall as well as the others I collected that day during cleanup. I gave up on that idea after counting out 100, no, not because I ran out of fingers and toes but basically because it looked like it would take f o r e v e r and I had better things to do. If you are into a challenge maybe you want to venture a guess. The cardboard sheet on the left has 100 mussels on it. The cardboard sheet on the right has mussels that haven't been counted yet. They all came from the black bucket of mussels I collected in about one hour. So, what is your guess, how many zebra mussels do you think are on the cardboard on the far right? I don't have the answer and can't tell you how close your guess is. However, just by the look of it I'd say thousands.



AIS monitors wanted!

Do you know someone looking for an outside job with time on the job to read or study at the same time. Look no further.

The DNR realizing the only way to eliminate AIS in a lake is to prevent it from entering in the first place is actively recruiting public access monitors to screen for any organic substance attached to boats or trailers that might give unwanted species access to our lake. Training is provided and the work is essential for clean lakes. The DNR search has led them to high schools in the area, job fairs, internet requests, and local news articles. Those sources provided added staff, but did not fill the ranks. Many more monitors are needed. If you know someone interested in an outside part-time job this summer that comes with a flexible schedule, have them check out the DNR web site. During slow times there is time for reading, studying, checking email, browsing the internet or just relaxing.

Word Scramble

Rearrange the letters to spell two words found in this newsletter.



n o t m o r i



a a d r p e

Fry

About the size of zooplankton. They are unable to swim and are carried by currents and waves. Fry are capable of feeding themselves.

Fingerling

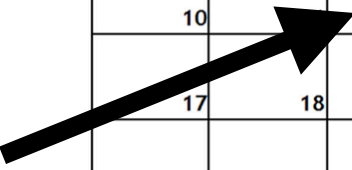
A fish the size of a finger. Fingerlings as opposed to fry have developed scales and working fins.

Yearling

A small fish 5 to 6 inches long that as the name implies is a year old.

MARCH 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10		Ice Out				
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



The definition of “ice out” is defined as when one can travel from one end of the lake to another unhindered. This year that date was March 12th. Thanks Mike Chapman for recording the date this year.

They have landed

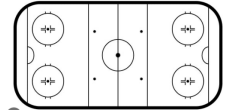
Spiny water flea, an invasive species has been reported in a lake near us. Like any other invasive species they do damage to lakes. Here is a little history of the species and how it found its way here.

The spiny waterflea is native to Europe and Asia. The species was unintentionally introduced into the United States' Great Lakes through the discharge of contaminated cargo ship ballast water. They were first discovered in Lake Ontario in 1982, and spread to Lake Superior by 1987.

Spiny water fleas are a tiny freshwater zooplankton that invade lakes and can take over the bottom of the food chain, disturbing the ecology of the food web and presenting a serious potential threat to Minnesota lakes. They can decimate populations of Daphnia and other native zooplankton resulting in a decreased food source for native fish and an increase in algae blooms. They can also clog the eyelets of fishing rods, causing problems for recreationalists. There are fewer predators on spiny water fleas than on native zooplankton because small or young native fish can't consume their sharp, barbed spine.

Spiny water flea introductions result in an average 30 to 40 percent decline in native populations of zooplankton. This can lead to less food that has lower nutritional value for small native fish and the young of sport fish such as bass, walleye and yellow perch.

Sunfish and Crappie Daily Limit on Lake Edward in 2024



Ice cream, ice cubes, ice rink are all good and can be enjoyable. I can't put ice ridges in the same category. Ice ridges mean work. We had an unusual year for ice ridges. Some think the mild winter resulted in all the ice ridges on the lake. I'm not a scientist, climatologist, meteorologist or any kind of an "ologist" or whoever tracks these things so you can't prove it by me. All I know is there was a mess to deal with. The following excerpt is from an article in the latest WAPOA magazine (Whitefish Area Property Owners Association) providing some guidance on ice ridge removal for their readers.



5

5



The Crow Wing County Land Use Ordinance allows an annual ice ridge to be re-graded back to its original elevation without a permit when the work is done in the same year the ice ridge occurred. Annual

ice ridges are defined as a linear mound of lake bed materials pushed up onto the lakeshore by the action of ice within a calendar year. It is important to remember that the soil from the annual ice ridge cannot be pushed back into the lake and must be graded back away from the lake.





Remember this?

We are going to do it again.
Come join us on July 4th at
11:00 near Cozy Bay. Don
Rother will lead us around
the lake in July 4th style.



Minnesota Twins offer free hats and discounted tickets

Anyone with a 2024 Minnesota fishing or hunting license can access a special ticket package with the Minnesota Twins this season. The special ticket package includes a free blaze orange wool-blend Twins cap and a ticket discount.

The Minnesota DNR Days are back at Twins games this season, through a partnership between the Twins and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

The Minnesota DNR Days partnership includes seven games this year:

- Sunday, April 21 vs. Detroit Tigers, 1:10 p.m.
- Friday, May 3 vs. Boston Red Sox, 7:10 p.m.
- Friday, May 24 vs. Texas Rangers, 7:10 p.m.
- Saturday, June 15 vs. Oakland Athletics, 1:10 p.m.
- Saturday, July 20 vs. Milwaukee Brewers, 6:10 p.m.
- Sunday, Aug. 4 vs. Chicago White Sox, 1:10 p.m.
- Tuesday, Sept. 10 vs. Los Angeles Angels, 6:40 p.m.

Important: License holders must purchase their tickets ahead of time at the Twins' [special DNR Days webpage](https://twins.com/dnr) (twins.com/dnr) in order to receive the hat and discounted tickets. Ticket prices vary by game. The person who purchases the tickets must show their hunting or fishing license, or a photo of it, at the game when they pick up the hats. This is a high-demand promotion with a limited quantity of hats. Additional instructions for purchasing tickets are on the [Minnesota DNR Days webpage](https://mndnr.gov/twins) (mndnr.gov/twins).

People can buy fishing and hunting licenses at any Minnesota DNR license agent, [online with a mobile or desktop device](https://mndnr.gov/buyalicense) (mndnr.gov/buyalicense), or by phone at 888-665-4236. Mobile license buyers receive a text or email that serves as proof of a valid fish or game license to state conservation officers.

Did You Know

One of our lake residents, Sarah Mosses, has established a Facebook page for Lake Edward. She updates it regularly. It is called Lake Edward Residents Facebook Page. Thanks Sarah!

Check the boxes that are important to you.

Fish stocking	☐	Track loon populations from year to year	☐
AIS prevention	☐	Network with DNR to combat lake threats	☐
Water quality	☐	Provide a LECC web page	☐
Monitoring lake levels	☐	Lobby state and local leaders to enhance water quality issues	☐
Providing a lake directory	☐	Create and archive a history of the lake	☐
Support public access monitoring	☐	Attend annual meetings to get to know other residents	☐
Apply for grants to help the lake	☐	Locate lost gear blown away during a storm	☐
Newsletter	☐		

Each box you checked is a service the LECC provides. Make what is important to you happen, renew or become a LECC member today for just \$25.00.

Video shows how to handle flathead catfish, other large fish

A video from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources aims to educate anglers about how to properly catch and release large fish.

Being properly equipped and understanding how to handle a large fish is critical to enhancing the fish's chances for survival after release. The video covers: having the proper equipment for large fish; minimizing the time the fish is out of the water; protecting the fish's slime coating; holding the large fish horizontally and supporting the fish's body; and releasing the fish properly. The flathead catfish fishing season began April 1. Additionally, seasons are around the corner for other large fish like lake sturgeon, muskellunge, northern pike, steelhead and others.

The video can be found on the Minnesota DNR's [catch and release webpage \(mndnr.gov/fish/catchandrelease.html\)](http://mndnr.gov/fish/catchandrelease.html).

We all know zebra mussels are a threat to all water in Minnesota. We should know how to prevent their spread but how many other threats to our lake are lurking in the shadows ready to infiltrate if we aren't on our toes? The DNR lists all invasive species present in the state. Luckily, only some can be found in Lake Edward. Others are just waiting to move in if we aren't careful. For a complete listing of AIS species and the dangers of not cleaning and draining boats at the landing or failing to quarantine docks and lifts entering the water check out the DNR invasive species website.

[DNR invasive species laws website \(mndnr.gov/invasives/laws.html\)](http://mndnr.gov/invasives/laws.html).

Lake Edward Facebook Page

A few years back during a conversation with Herb Nelson, then president of the LECC, it became obvious that not everyone received the email blasts Herb would send out to connect folks with lost items. Sarah Moses said she thought she could capture some of the missing souls with a Facebook page and eliminate some of the responsibility on Herb. That's how it all started. When Herb had something to send he would copy Sarah with the announcement. Sarah in turn posted it on the newly created Facebook page. All went well and the Lake Edward Residents Facebook page grew. Currently, 570 people follow the posts on the Facebook page. That number is larger than the number of folks that have property on the lake, indicating many folks that move from the lake still want to have that connection and are interested in lake happenings. Others who come and spend time on the lake are interested too.



When starting a Facebook page there are items to consider. First a decision must be made as to it being an individual page or a group page. The difference amounts to who can access it and how much control the developer has. The Edward page is a group page meaning all folks can have access to it. The challenge is to make sure none of the potential followers are intent on scamming or hocking merchandise. Sarah screens folks wanting to post to insure they are legit. Questions are asked and evaluated. Anyone wanting to sell something must look to another outlet that is set up for that specific purpose.

Sarah's history with lake began in the 50's when her family bought property on the north side of the lake. She and her husband, Curt, frequently come up year round. Curt now has a more flexible schedule since retiring a few years ago. Sarah still maintains a business in the Twin Cities but has the ability to adapt her work schedule around lake time. Thinking back over the years Sarah and Curt think the biggest change they've noticed is the increase of traffic on the roads. Want to be in the know on lake news? Join the Lake Edward Residents Facebook page and be updated on news that matters to you.

Beware of Bears !!!!

Bears are opportunistic and are always on the lookout for something to eat. They roam their territory constantly looking for food. Once they locate ample supplies of succulent, tantalizing offerings they stick around until the buffet table has nothing left but crumbs. With their insatiable appetites, they move on looking for what the next opportunity has to offer. When they find anything appealing they put down stakes and take up residence until that food source dries up. Currently, the area around lake Edward is providing a way stop for bears. The seeds we put in feeders are tempting snacks. They are scavengers and don't care about "best buy" dates so garbage cans hold a gold mine of opportunities. Garbage is a bear's buffet table. They are smart enough to know that as long as bird feeders are refilled and garbage cans put out every week, there is no need to move on and risk going hungry.

When they do get hungry it's time to find a new cuisine and they head into the woods to find berries, grubs, rodents and anything else they can wolf down. This time of year the urge to move on and look for new opportunities usually happens by mid-June when food sources disappear. When bears can't knock down any more bird feeders or raid anymore garbage cans or lick anymore grills they get antsy, call it quits, and move on looking Mother Nature to provide some variety.

As the recent bear sighting have shown they aren't moving on yet, at least not while there are still bird feeders to ambush or another garbage can to plunder. The birds might resent us, but if we stop refilling our bird feeders, keep a close eye on our garbage cans, and store grills out of reach, hopefully the bears will get the hint and start moseying off into the woods looking for a other options. Other than that be alert, watch your pets, take precautions when you go outside and we should all be able to feed the birds again in a few weeks.

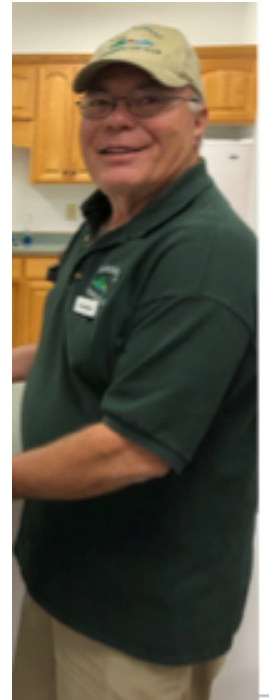


Don Rother has worn many hats for the LECC. He, for many years had been our lead statistician, from counting loons each year, to recording

ice out dates, to measuring water quality. Much of what the DNR web site lists for Lake Edward was provided by Don. If Lake Edward had a chief historian, it would be Don. He has many years of experience observing the history of the lake. Don has agreed to lead the boat parade on July 4th. We will start at 11:00 near the Cozy Bay resort and follow Don as he maneuvers past some of his favorite fishing hot spots. He promises not to slow up the festivities by dropping a line along the way. Come join Don and your neighbors as we celebrate the 4th in Lake Edward style.

Thanks Herb

Herb Nelson for many years served as our president of the LECC. When he and his wife Lori moved, he gave up his presidency. Herb's knowledge and scientific background proved valuable guiding us through some invasive species issues. He could crunch numbers like no other. Thanks for a job well done and best wishes.





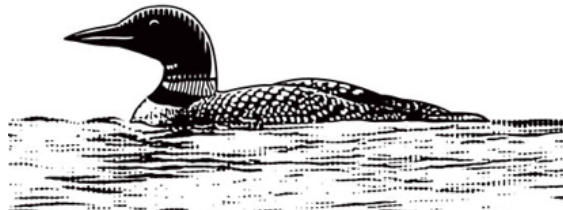
Money is not unlimited, at least not with the circle of friends I hang with. When possible, many of us manage to support worthwhile causes in spite of limited resources. Some of those causes are close to home and some may be on the other side of the world. Get ready... here it comes. If you are passionate and have the ability to financially support a cause on the lake please consider it. Whether the cause be specific like stocking fish or AIS prevention, lake monitoring or for the general fund, send your donation check to:

LECC
P.O. Box 134
Merrifield, MN 56468

Thank you in advance for anything you can do. Also, to all our members who in the past were able make that happen, THANK YOU! Our lake is in better shape because of your help.

Getting your email address in our database includes you in the lost item updates and a provides you with a complete version of our newsletter. Contact Nancy Fischer fischern55@gmail.com if your name is not on our list. We do not share or sell our list to anyone, no exceptions.

Some folks on the lake have noticed the loons being disturbed by distracted boaters. Loons are a protected species and our State bird. If the loons appear distressed or forced to take evasive action when you approach it's a sign you are too close. The DNR recommendation is that boats maintain a distance of least 150 feet from loons. Please be on the lookout and protect our loon population.





Test your knowledge.

1. What lake association has the lowest dues of any in Crow Wing County?
 - a) Gull Lake
 - b) Lake Edward
 - c) Pelican Lake
2. Who sends out a group email to match the owner with lost equipment ?
 - a) Nancy Fischer
 - b) Public access monitor
 - c) Any LECC board member
3. What are the dues for the LECC?
 - a) \$20.00
 - b) \$25.00
 - c) \$30.00
4. What time is the July 4th parade?
 - a) 9:00
 - b) 11:00
 - c) 10:30
5. What significance does the number 5 have to do with Lake Edward?
 - a) Crappie daily limit
 - b) Sunfish daily limit
 - c) Both a) and b)
6. How can someone get a free Twins cap?
 - a) Enter a contest
 - b) Purchase a Twins ticket through the DNR web site.
 - c) Not possible
7. What positions are paid position on the LECC?
 - a) President
 - b) None they are all volunteers
 - c) Loon counter
8. What new AIS invader has been spotted in some Crow Wing County lakes?
 - a) Nightcrawlers
 - b) Crayfish
 - c) Spiny water flea
9. What discourages bears from the area?
 - a) Removing bird feeders
 - b) Playing loud classical music
 - c) Hanging strips of tinfoil from trees
10. Who moved and resigned the presidency of the LECC?
 - a) Herb Nelson
 - b) Don Rother
 - c) Paul McCullough
11. When was ice out in 2024?
 - a) March 12th
 - b) April 1st
 - c) May 3rd
12. Where are LECC meetings held ?
 - a) Lake Edward Town Hall
 - b) Merrifield Snowmobile club
 - c) Public Access

1. b
2. a
3. b
4. b
5. c
6. b
7. b
8. c
9. a
10. a
11. a
12. a

**Answers to
the Test
Your
Knowledge
Quiz.**

The
scrambled
words are
monitor
and
parade.

Calendar

March 12th 2024 Ice Out

July 4 parade 11:00 meet at Cozy Bay, circle the lake clockwise. Don Rother will lead us.

August 24 2024 Board and Member Meeting

Lake Edward Town Hall People Time 9:30 Meeting 10:00

Save the Date !!!!

Mark your calendars for August 17th. Our first LECC Fall Social is planned. Picnic in the Park is scheduled at Merrifield Lions park at 5:00. Bring a dish to share and your beverage of choice. Brats and burgers provided.



Lake Edward Conservation Club

P.O. Box 134

Merrifield MN 56465-0134