

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:

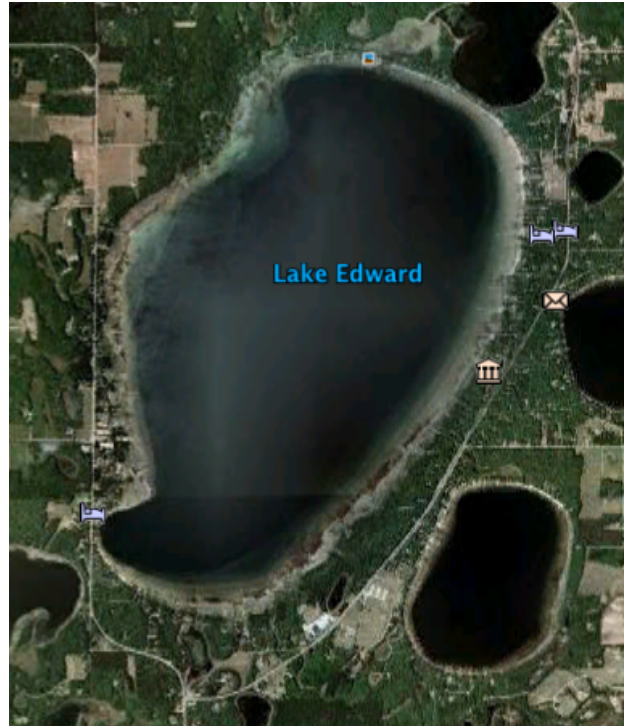
1,199 acres

Age:

8,000 years old

Boat Ramp:

Concrete

**LECC WEBSITE ADDRESS**

<http://edwardlake.wordpress.com>

Lake Edward DNR ID # 18030500

Save the Dates

We are now locked in on the Lake Edward Town Hall calendar. Our annual Spring all member LECC meeting is scheduled for June 10th. Our second meeting will be on August 12th. All are welcome to attend. The meetings begins 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 for both meetings at the Lake Edward Town Hall.

The unpredictable weather last summer kept Herb busy sending out emails trying to connect owners with lost property. Dock sections, boat lifts, canoes, flotation devices, paddle boards, and anything not nailed down was subject to the whim of the strong winds. Getting your email address in our database includes you in the lost item updates and a complete version of our newsletter. Contact Lori Nelson at lorinelson@brainerd.net or text her 651-246-7292 to be included.



President's Report Winter 2023

Please welcome Wendy McCullough as Treasurer and Lake Board member of the Lake Edward Conservation Club (LECC). If Wendy's last name sounds familiar, her husband Paul is also a Lake Board member who coordinates fish stocking for LECC. Looking ahead to 2023, we'll likely have another busy agenda. It seems we may need to dust off by-laws to reflect inflation and changes over 15 years; possibly raise dues; and consider whether a payment APP such as Venmo would safely simplify banking for the Board and members. We'll also survey for spiny water flea, possibly treat curly leaf pondweed, as well as conduct water quality sampling and lake level monitoring. Also, on the agenda is handing out the 2023 directory, reviewing loon chick counts, discussing support of County AIS boat inspectors at the public landing and analyzing the latest cormorant data. If you have a suggestion for an agenda item, please forward to herbnelson@brainerd.net or text to 651-239-4860. Thanks, Herb Nelson

LECC Board of Directors

Officers

President	Herb Nelson
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 Herb Nelson
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

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.

LECC

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. 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.

What do Andrew Jackson and the LECC have in common?

Well, Andrew Jackson and the LECC have been connected for a long long time. Our LECC dues have been one single Andrew Jackson since at least 1994. Back in 1994 a dozen eggs were 86 cents, a gallon of gas was \$1.09, a pound of ground beef was \$1.48, a postage stamp was 29 cents and dues were \$20.00. Today gas is around \$4.00 a gallon, eggs when I last checked were \$5.49 a dozen, ground beef around \$6.00 a pound and a postage stamp 60 cents. But LECC dues are still one thin Andrew Jackson. What a deal!

Renew your dues or become a new member and let the LECC continue to protect and monitor Lake Edward.

Uncle Sam is here to help out. If you are reading this newsletter by email, print out the form below, and send your dues to the address on the form

For those of you reading a hard copy of this newsletter, cut out the form below and do the same.

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



Dues Form 2023

Please fill out the form below and send your dues 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 _____ @ _____

_____ @ _____
.....

Stocking update

Last year crappie were stocked in the spring and walleye in the fall. This was in addition to the walleye fry stocking the DNR does every year. The stocking program we used mirrored the lake association programs on neighboring lakes, like Gull and Pelican. The long range plan was to monitor the success on Lake Edward based on surveys and make future stocking decisions in consultation with the DNR based on the results.

Paul McCullogh, our LECC fisheries chair, took the lead on this project and in consultation with the DNR reviewed the data compiled in a fall survey of 2022. Paul submitted the following summary of their findings.

1. The DNR completed its Fall 2022 electrofishing survey to determine the success of spring fry stocking. 2022 was a RECORD YEAR!
 - 43 Young of the Year (YOY) were caught per hour! This compares to 2021's catch of 11 and 2010's catch of 4 per hour
 - Walleye greater than 1 year old catch rate was 27 per hour in 2022, which compares to the 2021 catch rate of 10 per hour
2. Fall fish stocking did not occur.
 - My conversation with Mike Knapp at the Brainerd DNR Fisheries office confirmed that this was the highest YOY count they have seen on Lake Edward and given the large *number of fingerlings* our DNR permit for additional walleye stocking was not approved. *The DNR encouraged us to hold our funds for a future fall when the counts are not so high.*
3. DNR future stocking of fingerlings: Additionally in my conversation with the DNR, Mike indicated that Lake Edward is being considered for the DNR walleye fingerling stocking program (similar to Pelican and Gull).
 - *If the DNR begins to stock fingerlings then the LECC will work with the DNR and supplement their stocking program. Often the DNR is unable to stock the full amount of their target poundage due to lack of fingerling supply from the DNR. If this is the case they partner with lake associations to purchase and stock additional fingerlings. This is how the program works on Pelican Lake.*

While I was excited to begin our first walleye fingerling stocking program last fall, I am more excited that our lake is healthy enough to support the fry survival rate at record numbers! I recommend to the board that we continue to hold the walleye funds received for future walleye stocking needs and communicate with the LECC membership this good news. We will seek a DNR permit to stock crappie in the spring. ~Paul McCullogh LECC Board Member



A Dollar Only Stretches So Far

The LECC has undertaken a number of projects in recent years to enhance the health of the lake. Adding additional inspectors at the public access, combating Curly Leaf Pondweed, crappie, cormorant control and walleye stocking were the most recent projects. It would be nice if protecting the lake didn't come with a cost, but it does. Fortunately, the approval of some grants helped to defray the cost of some of those projects as did employer matches in other projects and generous donations by many of you. We have been fortunate to be able to fund necessary projects.

The fish stocking project created a positive buzz with the possibility of enhancing the fisheries in the lake. The Curly Leaf project is helping to contain the invasive species from taking control over the lake. More crappies plus more walleyes equal more opportunities for the recreational experience. Some of you recognize the benefits of these plans and were willing to support

it with a financial contribution. Our reasonable dues can only go so far. We would like to thank those of you that realize how important these undertakings are and sent a donation to fund specific projects.

Those of you supporting the Curly Leaf Pondweed project with a donation, thank you. Those of you sending money for the fish stocking project thank you. Those of you sending money and dedicating it to where needed most, thank you. Those of you using Giving to the Max day to help with our budget, thank you. Those of you using your Required Minimum Distribution RMD money to fund projects, thank you.

All of these worthwhile projects are important to the physical condition of the lake. The season never ends to contribute to their efforts to enhance the quality of our lake. If you want to make a donation for a specific project or to the general fund you can do so by writing a check to:

LECC

P.O. Box 134

Merrifield, MN 56465



Thanks Don for everything
you do for our lake.



Don Rother (L) and Herb Nelson (R) at last June's LECC meeting. Don is passing on his volunteer duties. Thanks Don for your years of service

Last year the Minnesota Legislature did not pass a raft of legislation before the clock ran out on the session. One item of supreme importance was the boater education and certification language. Minnesota Lakes and Rivers (MLR) worked with partners to build a broad partnership in support of this legislation, including the boating industry, sheriffs organizations, MN DNR, resorts, angling groups and others.

This training and certification was intended to use the best available science to:

- Protect public safety.
- Reduce user conflicts between small watercraft like kayaks and fishing boats and larger more powerful wake surfing watercraft or cabin cruisers.
- Prevent damage to shoreline, shoreline property or lake beds from enhanced wakes and deep prop-thrust.

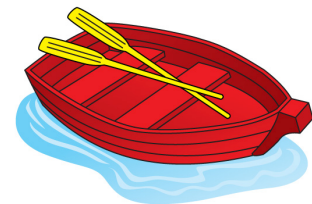
If you think this legislation may impact you and want more information the MLR and partners produced a [one page Frequently Asked Questions handout](#) to view.

Click on the blue text to open.



Is it just me or were there fewer eagles flying around last year than previous

years? Is it just me or are there more loons than usual on the lake? Is there a correlation?





The Minnesota state record for burbot is 19 pounds 10 ounces.

Burbot or eelpout is no longer considered a rough fish in Minnesota. It now is listed as a game fish. Burbot or eelpout is becoming an ever-increasing target by many anglers. Not only are they great fighters but are also known to be very tasty. Two employees from the DNR, Carl Pederson and Jody Derks, both fisheries specialists, will cover some basic biology as well as way to fish for burbot on February 8th, 2023. Sign up for the webinar and enjoy watching from the comfort of your home. Sign up at <https://minnesota.webex.com/webappng/sites/minnesota/webinar/webinarSeries/register/clfca06419d14084a507cb63292b51ec>



©MN DNR, C. Iverson

The National Loon Center is scheduled to open in 2024. It will be a first class facility. Staff has started to serve the public out of a temporary facility until they can cut the ribbon on the new building. The temporary site is open to the public for visits and education lectures on Thursdays and Fridays from 10 am to 4 pm for the rest of the winter. The Loon Center is located at 14303 Gould Street in Crosslake. We recommend the tour on board the Center's new Steward Ship pontoon to hear about loon research and leg-banding loons, nesting and socialization habits. Call the Loon Center to schedule a trip.



Thank goodness we had resources to treat the lake for CLP, but where did the money come from?

Funding Available for Curly Leaf Pondweed Project:

\$12,392.58 Members' donations earmarked for CLP.

\$ 1,000.00 Thirty Lakes Watershed

\$ 2,322.84 Give to the Max

\$ 6,327.00 MDNR Grant in 2022

\$ 4,000.00 From LECC undesignated reserves (Authorized by Board)

YUCK ! ! Let's Talk Trash ! !

Covid changed our lives. One positive effect it had is the uptick in folks getting out and enjoying the outdoors. Ice fishing in particular became more popular since 2020. A

downside of this increase has been the amount of litter left behind by fisherman. Litter has always been a problem but with more fishermen comes more litter, lots more. Items left behind by anglers run the



gamut from cigarette butts to bait to plastic bottles to slabs of wood used to prop up fish houses to food packaging to beverage cans. An increasing number of zip ties are floating up on beaches, useful gadgets but will be around long after we're gone. The DNR suggests you make a plan before you head out on the ice. Add trash bags to your ice fishing equipment list. Remember, littering, whether on public highways or public waters, is a petty misdemeanor and could earn you a \$100 fine. Rule of thumb, if you bring it on the ice, bring it off.

That's Us



Conservation officers make weekly reports to the DNR who then publish the report for public viewing. One of the posts submitted by CO Jim Guida (Brainerd East), was a reminder about pike limits. Anglers in the North Central Pike Zone, that includes our lake, are to immediately release all pike caught between 22 and 26 inches. In the north-central zone, anglers can keep 10

northern pike, but not more than two pike longer than 26 inches; and all from 22 to 26 inches must be released. Northern pike taken by spearing follow the same rules except one pike may be between 22 and 26 inches or two larger than 26 inches.

Word Scramble

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



e t e l u o p



t b b r u o

So Long It's Been Good to Know You

To those of you that designated Amazon Smile when making a purchase on line you've probably heard by now the program will cease to exist in another month. Amazon is going in a different direction in the hope they can be more impactful helping communities meet needs. We did benefit from the purchases that many of you made designating the LECC when making your purchase. It didn't make us rich but it added a few more walleye to the lake. Thank you.



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.

Did You Know

The 2023 Lake Edward Directory is coming out this spring. Contact Lori Nelson very soon if any of your contact information needs updating. The directory has been a valuable source of information for all of us. Her contact information is **lorinelson@brainerd.net**. Text her at **651-246-7292**. Join us at the June 10th meeting to pick up a copy fresh off the press.

How Well Do You Know Your State Symbols

Name the state muffin



Blueberry



Chocolate Chip



Orange

Name the state tree



Oak



Willow



Norway Pine

Name the state mushroom



Button



Morel



Portobella

Name the state flower



Lady Slipper



Rose



Tulip

Name the state fish



Sunfish



Walleye



Eel Pout

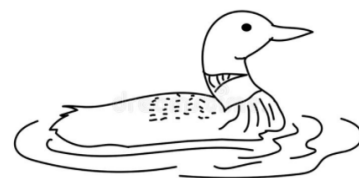
Name the state bird



Robin



Owl



Loon

Name the state apple



Honeycrisp



McIntosh



Crab

Name the state grain



Wildrice



Corn



Wheat

2022 NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Ice In

The definition of lake ice can vary from lake to lake. For the citizen observers reporting data, ice in occurs when the entire lake is frozen over and the ice cover remains through winter. Observers do not report ice thickness. Don Rother is our Lake Edward ice observer.

State Symbols

State fish -- Walleye

State bird -- Loon

State flower -- Lady Slipper

State muffin -- Blueberry

State tree -- Norway pine

State apple -- Honeycrisp

State butterfly -- Monarch

State gemstone -- Lake
Superior Agate

State grain -- Wild Rice

State sport -- Hockey

State soil -- Lester

State bee -- Rusty Patched
Bumblebee

Rainy Day Kid's Activity

Copy and paste the link below to download a coloring book of MN state symbols.

<https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/education/mnsymbols/mn-symbols-coloring-book.pdf>



Average Local Area Weather Facts

January has the least sunshine and is the coldest of all months.

July is the warmest month, has the most sunshine and the highest UV index.

Merrifield averages 26 inches of rain each year. The US average is 38 inches.

June is the wettest month on average and February the driest.

Merrifield averages 199 sunny days per year. The US average is 205.

Merrifield averages 43 inches of snow per year.

Basic Math

The last issue of this newsletter had a rather complicated formula for determining how much the lake rises after a storm. Factors that determine that are if the rain fell during a dry period or wet period. Other considerations are if the lake has streams entering it or if there is wetland connected.



Lynn Hansch, a LECC board member, has a much easier method to determine lake level fluctuations. Lynn reminded us that there are two gauges at the public access, one placed there by the DNR and one by the county. The DNR gauge and the county gauge are calibrated every spring. They both measure the lake level but each is calibrated in a different way. The DNR gauge uses a laser and the county gauge uses GPS. If interested in this sort of thing look at the number on the county gauge before a storm. After a storm revisit the landing and check the new number. Subtract new from old and that tells how much higher the lake is after a storm. For example, if before the storm the number is 1207.7 and after it is 1207.9, subtract 1207.7 from 1207.9 and that is how much the lake rose.

In this case the lake level rose two tenths of an inch. As an aside the gauges are only accurate if they are not disturbed. They need to be recalibrated if boats entering and exiting the lake bump into them and jar them into a different position. When exiting or entering the lake be mindful of the gauges. The DNR or county doesn't come right out and adjust gauges. It maybe weeks before they can schedule a time to recalibrate.



5 Steps You Can Take To Protect Our Lake

Courtesy of the WAPOA

Whitefish Area Property Owners Association

Give Wildlife Space

Stay at least 200 feet away from wildlife, nests, and marked breeding areas.

Close encounters disrupt activities like nesting, breeding and finding food.

Keep the Shoreline Natural

Leave logs submerged and vegetation in place. Keep shoreline vegetation intact.

Driftwood downed trees and plants provide habitat for fish and wildlife, hold soil in place and filter pollutants and excess nutrients that fuel algae.

Choose Lead - Free Tackle

Lead-free alternatives for fishing tackle like tin, steel or tungsten keep our children and wildlife safe.

Loons and other waterfowl can swallow lead sinkers and jigs attached to fish or strike directly at tackle on an angler's line. Also, lost lead pieces on lake bottom can be mistaken as pebbles used to grind up food.

Observe No - Wake Zones

Slow down within 200 feet of the shoreline and wildlife.

Wakes can cause erosion, disturb animals, and damage vegetation.

Prevent the spread of invasion species

Before leaving the water access, clean, drain and dry all gear.

Invasive species can overtake native plants and animals, creating ecosystem imbalances.

Sunfish and Crappie Daily Limit on Lake Edward in 2023



5

5





Test your knowledge.

1. When will the new LECC directory be published?
 - a) On your birthday
 - b) In time to hand out at the June meeting
 - c) Fall
2. How do you get your information updated for the directory?
 - a) Contact Lori Nelson
 - b) Contact Herb Nelson
 - c) Contact the county
3. What fish is now a game fish?
 - a) Carp
 - b) Eelpout
 - c) Burbot
4. How many watercraft are registered in Minnesota?
 - a) 5.7 million
 - b) 825,000
 - c) 999,000
5. What two public entities calibrate gauges at the public landing?
 - a) State and county
 - b) County and city
 - c) LECC and the city
6. What is the state tree?
 - a) Norway pine
 - b) Ash
 - c) Red Maple
7. Who is the CO for Brainerd East?
 - a) Jim Guida
 - b) Herb Nelson
 - c) Chelsey Best
8. Where does discarded litter end up?
 - a) In the lake
 - b) On the beach
 - c) Both a and b
9. What is the verdict on the stocking program in 2022?
 - a) Excellent
 - b) Failure
 - c) Inconclusive
10. Will more crappie be stocked in 2023?
 - a) If our permit is approved by the DNR
 - b) Yes
 - c) No
11. When did "ice in" occur in 2022?
 - a) December 1
 - b) November 22
 - c) November 30
12. Where are LECC meeting dates posted?
 - a) On email
 - b) By postcard
 - c) In the local paper

A Look Back at the Summer of 2022

Red White and Blue

The weather looked threatening, the temperature on the cool side, the clouds blocked the sun but that didn't stop the annual Lake Edward 4th of July parade. Rain stopped with just enough time to quickly decorate the boats before the start of the parade. We may have been down a few vessels in the flotilla from past years, but everything else was the same. Don Rother led us off at 11:10 with a smattering of boats, within a few minutes a few more joined the fleet and a short time later we were at full strength with more than two dozen watercraft in formation. Pontoons led in numbers followed by jet skis and speed boats. Lots of red, white, and blue dotted the lake. Some very impressive displays that took quite a bit of engineering to accomplish were present. By 12:10 we had circumnavigated the lake and everyone went their separate ways. Whether riding in a boat or watching from a dock, a good time was had by all.





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

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

Calendar

November 22nd 2022 Ice In

June 10 2023 Annual Meeting

Lake Edward Town Hall 9:30.

May 12 Fishing Opener

July 4 parade 11:00 meet at Cozy Bay, circle the lake clockwise.

August 12 2023 Board and Member Meeting

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

Print out this sheet. Hold it up to a mirror upside down to read the message.

Γραφειο Λογιστηριας ΓΕΕΚ ΓΕΕΚ ΓΕΕΚ ΓΕΕΚ ΓΕΕΚ
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Lake Edward Conservation Club

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