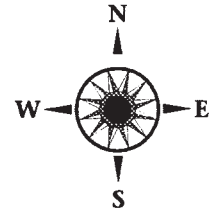


NORTH & SOUTH TWIN LAKES

RIPARIAN ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER

VOL 14 No. 3

P.O. BOX 163 • PHELPS, WI 54554 <www.nstrla.org>

FALL 2009

Grant News - AIS Control Project:

Treasurer, Mike Schindler, drafted a letter that was sent to Jane Malischke, DNR, Environmental Grants Specialist, requesting an amendment to the scope of our grant. Word came on October 5, 2009 that the scope has been revised as per our request.

The revised scope will permit us to allow for a portion of the Phase 2 Treatment Implementation including treatment costs for the Eurasian water milfoil treatment, to be included with this Phase 1 project. This amendment also allows for the contribution of project administration time to be recognized as project match. In effect this will make better use of your dollars coming from your volunteer work. Thanks to all who help out.

Our plan for the near future is to have our consultant, Tim Hoyman, prepare another grant submission for Feb. 2010. We do not know what that grant will call for in terms of funds but it is possible **we may not** get approval for the grant. If that occurs we may be very hard pressed to do treatments to any great extent. This year we fell short in membership by 25% versus past years. That does not bode well for our ability to continue to treat without help from the DNR. All efforts to form a lake district have not succeeded which would have allowed a relatively small amount to be put on everyone's tax bill to keep up the treatment effort. We realize times are not good but the future of our lakes may hang in the balance. We will keep everyone up to date as soon as we are aware of the results to get another treatment grant.

Have a good winter. NSTLRA Board



LOON REPORT

Over the beautiful Labor Day weekend, we saw several visitors to our lakes, including what we believe were Red-necked Grebes on their way to Florida. Our lakes are on the flyway for many different types of birds - what a treasure!

The snow and cold water temperatures didn't scare away the loons. As of October 11, loons were still seen on the lake. They too should be heading south to warmer waters soon. They'll be back in the spring, as soon as we have open water on the lakes. Please feel free to contact me as soon as you see the loons reappear!

<mailto:esutton@wi.rr.com>

NSTLRA's 15TH ANNUAL MEETING & PICNIC SAT. JULY 11, 2009

Right: four of the sixty-seven members arriving at the meeting.



Left: 2009 Potluck committee, Linda Mallet, Suzanne Wallace, Kay Ottoson and Shari Hyde in front of just a few of the yummy treats members brought to share.

Right: Pres. Joe and VP Roger conferring at the Annual Meeting. For article on Susan Knight, Featured Speaker, see p. 2.



The 2009 Fish Boil was another success. Over \$1,500 was raised for the AMEN fund, to support the "health" of our lakes, North and South Twin. The money came from various personal contributions, as well as 2 "split the pot" raffles. The success is attributed to the work of many people, 10 trips to the Upper Peninsula by Bob Clem, Bob Van Slate and Nick Amschlinger to catch the fish and all the individuals who brought in the wonderful cherry pies. Another "big thanks" goes to Barb and Bob Clem for all of their donations, the use of the Sundown, a bartender, waitresses, busboys and all the extra food to go with the fish, as well as cooking all the fish. It was the work of many, working together for the good of our lakes. Thanks to all. See you next year on August 4th for our next fish boil.



Cooks Bob and Nick

Steve Hash and Laura Babe

RECREATION & SAFETY: SO WHAT'S UP WITH THE BUOYS?

The buoys have had a 'hard year'.... Many of the 14 buoys will have to be replaced before next spring. Why? Because of the low water. The buoys have a PVC outer shell that keeps the buoy air tight - and - thus floating. With the drastically low water this year, the buoys have been 'bumping' on the rocks and chipping away at that air-tight bottom seal. Once there is a hole in the PVC, water is allowed into the buoy, and it 'sinks' to the bottom. It's like putting a hole in the bottom of your boat - it doesn't float very well. Perhaps you noticed this year some of the buoys lower in the water than other buoys. Well, those have holes in them and are resting on the bottom..... I'll get a final count when I pull the buoys in mid-October. Replacing the buoys will run approximately \$100 each.

Usually, we leave the anchors and chains in the lake over the winter. But this year, we will pull all the buoys AND anchors/chains. Your fine vice president, Roger Ganser, has ordered new chain from the Phelps Hardware, and we will rechain all the buoys before they are put in next spring. I have the new chain in my garage now, and it looks to be a 'step up' from the old chains we have used. The new chain is heavier and appears to have more galvanizing, so I am excited to try it next year. Hopefully, we won't have so many run-away buoys!

Our channel marker lights are working now after some late summer problems. One light needed new rechargeable batteries, and the other light needed replacement altogether. Just a reminder to us all, that they do not last forever and need maintenance/replacement every so often.

A safe summer on the water this year! Thank-you all for being careful boaters.

Tom Hickson

Guest Speaker at this year's annual meeting in Conover was **Susan Knight**, WDNR who assisted in the **point intercept project on South Twin** last fall. Naturally growing plants found on South Twin are Wild Celery, Variable Pondweed, Slender Haiad, Flat Stem Pondweed, Fern Leaf, Northern Water Milfoil, and Musk Grass. The only aquatic invasive plant found is the Eurasian Water Milfoil. The survey took 3 days on 394 points. Their findings indicated a very healthy weed structure and excellent water quality based on the plant life. North Twin was not included in the study.

To check out current news, click on our website www.nstlra.org Go to News Flashes and Lake Treatment for late breaking news. Send your email address to gapar@newnorth.net to be alerted of postings. We will no longer be snail mailing newsletters except in rare instances where requested. It will be a great savings.

FISHING REPORT

We are beginning to brace ourselves for the cold of winter here in the north woods, and if you are like me, you are behind schedule and struggling to catch up. Unfortunately, this predicament does not allow me much time for fishing.

Enough about me, let's talk about what has been happening on the water. The summer was cold, but perch and walleye fishing were very good throughout. The late warm-up in September only helped fishing for those species, as they stayed in the weeds late into the month. Now that the lake has turned over, due to the wonderfully cold weather we have had, most of the fishing has dropped into deeper water.

Musky fishing was very good this spring, and people were able to catch plenty of fish all through the summer. The downside to that was that several fish did not survive being caught and released. I know of at least seven fish that were seen floating this summer. Please remember that good catch and release practice includes using the right gear and handling the fish as little as possible before quickly releasing it back into the water.

Anyway, I am pretty pumped up to do some ice fishing. If this fall has been any indication, then this winter should be a really good time. Remember the two most important things: be safe, and have fun.

Marti Primich
North Twin Lodge
Fishing Chair

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

The last scheduled highway cleanup of the season occurred on Thursday, Sept. 24. Our crew consisted of Marty Schmidt, Frank Switalski, Annette Diebold, Tom and Kay Hickson, and Ben and Priscilla Vanden Heuvel. Five bags of trash were collected. Our volunteers commented that the roads were cleaner this year: good news indeed!! Clearly, NSTLRA members and property owners have an awareness of, and a commitment to, maintaining our beautiful northwoods roadsides.

We pulled purple loosestrife along Hwy K-- this is an ongoing project. Garlic mustard is the latest invasive species moving into the northern woodlands. This non-native plant has been compared to the Eurasian water-milfoil in our lakes. More information on this subject will be in the spring newsletter and is also available at dnr.wi.gov/invasives <<http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives>> .

Thanks to all who have helped and supported our Adopt- A- Highway program. Have a safe and healthy winter season.

Priscilla and Ben Vanden Huevel



2009 AMEN DONORS

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\$300 to \$399

Dennis and Marjorie Blume, Joe and Marcia Fritzsche

\$400 to \$499

In Memory of Gene Saucke by Miriam Saucke Family and Friends.

\$500

John and Shari Hyde, Carol and Michael Levin, James and Mary Steffens

Plus the over \$1500 offerings that came in via the Fish Boil and other fund raisers. Every cent is used to help fight against aquatic invasives and helps. Thanks.

A Grateful NSTLRA Board

Clean Boats Clean Water

The Clean Boats Clean Water program is a great way to get involved with improving the health of our lakes. North and South Twin Lakes already harbor Eurasian water-milfoil, but there are a host of other invasive species, like curly-leaf pondweed and zebra mussels, that haven't reached us. The Clean Boats Clean Water program is an effective way to supervise what gets introduced into our lakes, but more importantly, it helps educate the boat owners who use our lake about how to help preserve lake quality all over the state.

In addition, the government grant money we receive to help treat Eurasian water-milfoil is dependent upon volunteer hours. When we participate in our lakes health through volunteer hours, the Department of Natural Resources recognizes our contributions through grant money for the treatment of Eurasian water-milfoil.

Clean Boats Clean Water volunteer hours are easy to accumulate. Pairs of volunteers staff each boat launch for two-hour shifts to complete boat inspections, hand out literature, and talk with boat owners about the devastating effects of all invasive species. Training provided by the Lake Association in combination with the DNR provides all the necessary information.

Working at the launches is fun, easy, and very social. Most fishermen want to preserve lake quality. They are willing to discuss the situation and help perform their own boat inspections. Home owners who visit the lake sporadically or only on weekends during the summer are ideal candidates for this opportunity. It's just a two-hour commitment that can be met before some of your cabinmates even think about rising in the morning. And it's a great way to get involved with the lake's health and contribute to our grant effort.

More information about spring training sessions will be published in the spring newsletter. Meanwhile, if you'd like to sign up to be contacted regarding the training, or if you have ideas about training dates and times, please e-mail Laura Schnoor at <lschnoor@yahoo.com>, or Jackie Fruth at <jnj755@msn.com>. We'll be looking forward to hearing from you.

Laura and Jackie

Lake Merchandise

Don't forget, the Lake Association has some very handsome T-shirts, sweatshirts, caps and stickers available. Proceeds go to the AMEN Fund. Check out the new styles at the Sundown Tavern, or Contact Mike Hoffman at 715-891-4955 <nmhoffman@hotmail.com>

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