



# Lake Edward Lines

Newsletter of the Lake Edward Conservation Club

KEEP LAKE EDWARD HEALTHY

### Shore Soil Contents:

100% Sand

### Weed Line:

14 to 17 feet

### Maximum Depth:

75 feet

### Elevation:

1,203 feet

### Water Clarity:

12 feet

### Public Landing:

Southwest shore

### Width:

2 miles

### Length:

3 miles



### LECC WEBSITE ADDRESS

<http://edwardlake.wordpress.com>

Lake Edward DNR ID 18030500

### Size:

2,032 acres

### Miles of Shoreline:

9.4 miles

### % of water less than 15 feet:

59%

### Acres less than 15 feet:

1,199 acres

### Age:

8,000 years old

### Boat Ramp:

Concrete

### Pot Luck - Bingo - Fun

The third annual Lake Edward Pot Luck and Bingo gala will be held at Cozy Bay Resort at 5:00 on Saturday, September 26. Come and join your fellow Lake Edwardians for a fun social evening. Please bring a pot luck item to share, an item to use for a bingo prize and a guest if interested.

### 2nd addition

Our Lake Edward directory is due for an update. Directories are provided to all LECC dues paying members. Future directories will be distributed in the same way, at meetings or by pre arranged pickup. Each renewal or new membership will receive a new 2016 directory. Take a look and see if any of your information in the current directory has changed and notify Lori Nelson at 218-765-4001 or email her [LoriNelson@brainerd.net](mailto:LoriNelson@brainerd.net) to update your information. Still not a member? Fill out the form on the inside page and we'll see you get a directory.



### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Double - Crested Cormorants (DCC)! This summer, we saw more DCCs flying to and from nearby Pelican Lake. This year, DNR biologists found that the number of DCC nests on Gooseberry Island in nearby Pelican Lake increased of 70%. The DCC population in 2015 is estimated at roughly 1500 DCC! It's common to see flocks on Lake Edward in excess of DCC of 150 to 300 DCC. Biologists from various agencies debate how much damage the birds cause to area fisheries, but too many DCC do interfere with normal environmental conditions. We worked with the private owner of Gooseberry Island, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the DNR regarding our cormorant populations. I saw an email that federal agencies intend to issue a private property damage control permit to the nest island owner the spring of 2016. We wrote to the USFWS in support of the permit and encouraged other lake associations to do the same. See the article on cormorants in this newsletter.

Pot - Luck and Bingo September 26th at Cozy Bay 5:00.

### LECC Board of Directors

#### Officers

**President** Herb Nelson  
**Vice President** Lynn Hansch  
**Secretary** Betty Arveson  
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#### Directors

Ralph Morgan Mabel Schultz  
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#### Committee Chairs

**Invasive Species** Herb Nelson  
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**Water Quality & Quantity**  
 Don Rother

**Outlet** Ralph Morgan  
**Webmaster** Liz Hintze

**Newsletter Editor** Ron Czerepak

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

### LECC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

To renew current memberships or to become a first time member please send a check for \$20.00 to: LECC P.O. Box 134 Merrifield MN 56465-0134. Your membership dues are tax deductible as are any donations to the organization.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Edward Address \_\_\_\_\_

( ) New member

Lake Edward Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

( ) Renewal

Other address, if applicable \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

( ) Above is a change in contact information.

( ) I would be interested in a digital copy of the LECC news, sent by email, rather than a mailed copy.

## Shore Lunch

While motoring past the public landing in early July on a bright sunny afternoon an eagle swooped out of a tree near the landing and hovered less than 30 feet above the pontoon we were on. In a flash it dove down and came up with a fish in its talons. We were lucky enough to capture the event with a smartphone. The picture is grainy but you might be able to see a flopping fish securely attached to its talons. An eagle is the only predator an adult loon needs to fear. Maybe those of you that boat regularly can provide some information on how numerous loons are near the public landing. From what we saw the landing area should be a danger zone for loons.



## Cormorant

Lately many folks have noticed an unusually high number of cormorants on the lake, some flocks numbering in the hundreds. Cormorants were such a problem on Leech Lake a few years ago steps were taken to reduce the population substantially. Pelican Lake has a healthy and abundant supply of cormorants on the island by Breezy Point. So many that some are probably searching for new places for some elbow room, hence, Lake Edward.

In Minnesota, cormorants have been found to consume from 1.0 to 1.5 pounds of food per bird per day. The majority of their diet is made up of fish (99.9% in Leech Lake) but they also eat snails, crayfish, and amphibians. Ninety percent of the fish they consume are 5.3 inches or less in length and have an average weight of 4.2 ounces. Cormorants are opportunistic feeders and will prey on a variety of species that seasonally varies. The diet is a usually considered a reflection of the relative abundance and sizes of prey species present at the time of foraging. A study by J. Coleman in Oneida Lake, New York, however, showed that cormorants preferred walleyes that were one and two years old compared to younger walleyes. It is not known if the situation from New York would be comparable in Minnesota. The majority of the diet is comprised of young life stages of sport fish and smaller non-game species. In Minnesota this often includes yellow perch, minnow species, cisco, and walleye.

Cormorant population management on Leech Lake is often cited as a situation where control was necessary to improve the local walleye fishery in Minnesota. In this situation there was circumstantial evidence at the time control was initiated, that cormorants were reducing survival of small walleyes, which in turn translated to fewer catchable-sized fish for anglers. Historically, the double-crested cormorant (DCC) has been one of the most misunderstood and maligned of all native Minnesota bird species. Since the mid-1800s, they have been accused of being a voracious fish-eating bird and have been clubbed, shot, and had their colonies destroyed. As people raise concerns about cormorants, it is important to sort between fact and fiction so that efforts to manage Minnesota's wildlife and fisheries resources are based on sound science and not on emotion.



## Meet Officer Jim Guida

Chances are if you've seen a conservation officer on Lake Edward this summer you saw Jim Guida. Jim works out of the Brainerd DNR office. His first career was as a deputy sheriff and now is the conservation officer in our area. When an opening occurred Jim applied for the job and was the top choice. This is his dream job because he enjoys the work, but also lives in the area. In addition both he and his wife's family live nearby.

Jim has been patrolling this area since February of 2004. Besides Lake Edward, Jim covers an area that stretches from Fort Ripley to Pequot Lakes to Breezy Point to Merrifield and as far south as South Long Lake. That's a lot of water to patrol. What makes it even more challenging is that on Pelican Lake alone on a busy day there can be as many as 200 to 300 boats on the lake at any time. Add up all the lakes in his area and all the watercraft on them and he has the task of patrolling numerous lakes and thousand and thousand of watercraft on a busy weekend. If that doesn't sound challenging enough he is on call to respond to requests for assistance from his colleagues in surrounding areas when they need help. More than enough to keep him busy.

Conservation officers' duties are what you might expect. He conducts routine patrols to protect DNR natural resources. Summer duties would include patrolling the water for watercraft violations, monitoring ATV trails, educating boaters about invasive species at boat landings, responding to complaints by citizens, speaking to groups when requested, and making sure watercraft are properly equipped with safety apparatus and are in correct working order. His duties change with the seasons. In the fall he has more contact with hunters whether they are on land or water. He monitors where folks are hunting to insure they are on land with permission. Ditch riding with ATVs are very popular and observing this activity falls under his duties. Winter involves a lot of ice fishing patrols and snowmobile monitoring as well as ice fishing house registration. With tongue in cheek he said one thing he isn't in charge of is ditch 13.

On occasion he responds to complaints by boaters at boat landings that don't understand why they need their boat inspected when the lake they are entering already has invasive species. Jim's response is there is not just one kind of invasive species there are many non-native invasive species and inspectors are trying to stop the spread of any and all invasive species. The monitors at the landings are trained but often young and it is not necessary to be confrontational with them. It is best to be cordial, respectful and civil. Jim gets calls when tempers rise and boaters get confrontational with the inspectors.

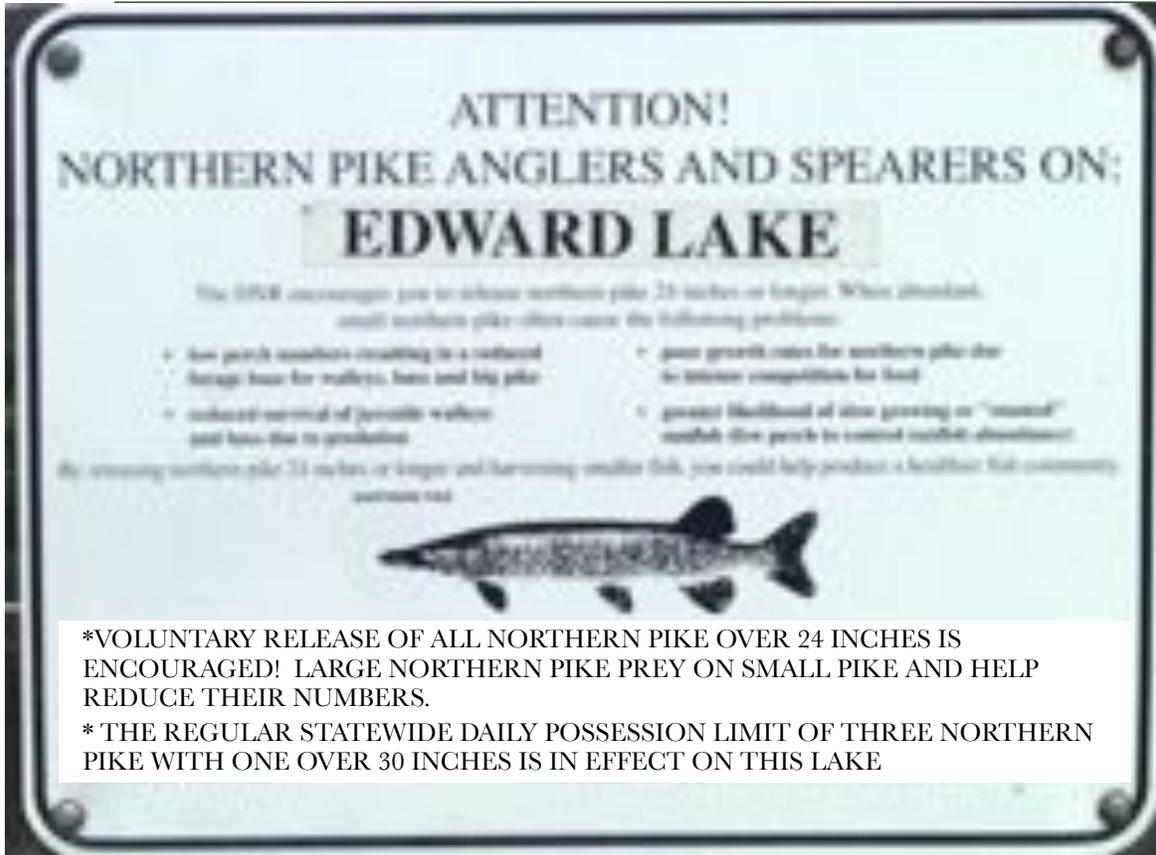
Be it summer or winter, fishing or hunting, one circumstance he has little patience for is someone without a license in possession. Obtaining a license is so easy now that it can be done on-line, through the mail, by smartphone or at local shops. Jim suggests hunters or fishermen devise a routine to make sure they have their license with them, be it clipped to their fishing box, attached to their hunting gear, or in their wallet.

As for Lake Edward he said we are lucky to have a lake with good habitat for fish, wonderful protected shoreline and a good bass and crappie fishery. He finds few infractions on the lake, the one he could think of was finding someone last winter fishing with too many lines in the winter.

When I asked Jim for some helpful tips for folks, he had plenty of suggestions.

- \* Anyone under the age of 10 is required to have a life jacket **on at all times** when the watercraft is in motion. No exceptions, failure to follow this law will result in a citation for the operator of the watercraft.
- \* Any watercraft with an internal gas tank needs a fire extinguisher on board. Boats with the tank that can be removed and transported to the gas station are not internal gas tanks.





This sign is affixed to a post at the Lake Edward public landing.

Calendar

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



**Lake Edward Conservation Club  
P.O. Box 134  
Merrifield MN 56465-0134**