



# 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

KEEP LAKE EDWARD HEALTHY



**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

**The Lake Edward Conservation Club annual meeting will be held at the Lake Edward Town Hall from 10:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, June 24th. The meeting is open to all. Anyone with agenda items contact Herb Nelson 651-239-4860. Our treasurer will be on site for those of you still waiting to renew your 2017 membership to the LECC. The Lake Edward Town Hall is located on County Road 3, and County Road 13. Annual dues for the LECC are \$20.00 per property owner. Dues are due January 1. The application to join is on page two of this newsletter. Thanks for your support.**

## **Membership Update**

In January a reminder note was sent out asking for your renewed support of the LECC. Many of you took that opportunity to keep your membership current. THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!! For those of you that put that request in a drawer to get to later and forgot, take a few moments and send in your \$20.00 membership dues now. We have a vibrant organization and can continue to monitor and plan for the future health of the lake with your help.



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### President's Report May 2017

Above average precipitation continues, so lake levels are about 7-9 inches above the long-term average elevation. In 2016, the County opened their Ditch 13 at the beach line by removing sand and plants as wide and deep as their DNR permit allows. This spring, dead reeds plugged Ditch 13 at the shoreline, so County staff removed the plug to maximize flow. But we need to remember that Ditch 13 is relatively small, only a bit bigger than a road ditch. It wasn't intended as a flood control project. Although the County does its best to keep Ditch 13 open, we should expect that it will take months of dryer than average weather to return the lake and groundwater to average levels.

While curly leaf pondweed (CLP) remains an invasive threat in Lake Edward, we could not find CLP actively growing in the lake on May 12. Tim Plude from the MN DNR indicated it would be a waste of our funding to chemically treat CLP this year because the chemical only works on actively growing lake plants. For some reason, CLP growth is later than expected this year. The native plants are beginning to grow actively, so very soon will also be susceptible to the chemical. At this time, the lake board finds that delaying treatment is the most efficient and safe use of your donations. Now what? We will do some kind of CLP control. It is a matter of timing and technique to make the best use of funding. We're going to use Tim Plude's recommendations. We will continue to monitor CLP growth until the end of June. If there is enough growth by then, Tim will help plan a chemical treatment for 2018. If that doesn't work, there are diving contractors that can hand-pull CLP at costs similar to chemicals.

### LECC Board of Directors

#### Officers

<b>President</b>	Herb Nelson
<b>Vice President</b>	Lynn Hansch
<b>Secretary</b>	Betty Arveson
<b>Treasurer</b>	Wayne Henquinet

#### Directors

Ralph Morgan	Mabel Schultz
Don Rother	
Ron Czerepak	David Christensen

#### Committee Chairs

<b>Invasive Species</b>	Herb Nelson
<b>Fisheries</b>	Open seat
<b>Planning and Zoning</b>	Open seat
<b>Water Quality &amp; Quantity</b>	Don Rother

<b>Outlet</b>	Ralph Morgan
<b>Webmaster</b>	Liz Hintze

<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Ron Czerepak
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# And I pick ..... LECC and Amazon smile



On-line buying has become a major way to shop for many folks. If anyone reading this is an Amazon Prime member, you have the opportunity to make a purchase with a cause. The LECC is registered with Amazon Smile, thanks Wayne for registering our



organization. A small percent of each purchase on Amazon Smile can go to a non profit organization, like the LECC for example. If you are a Amazon Prime member you can purchase through Amazon Smile and a small percentage of each purchase automatically is deposited to the LECC account. What's the catch? Really there in no catch. Same price, same product, same ordering process it's just that you order on the Amazon Smile site instead of the Amazon Prime site. The percent is small .05, but your purchases added with others will add a few more bucks into our bank account. The only step that's different from purchasing on Amazon Prime as opposed to Amazon Smile is to pick a non profit to receive your donation. Just one small extra step for Amazon Prime members when completing their purchase could benefit the LECC. It's a one time step. It is an effortless cost effective way to help our organization. Every little bit helps. The amount flowing into the LECC account is not going to pay for the Curly Leaf Pondweed project nor any other big buck project but it will tap into a source of income that we didn't have before. The process is simple. I made a purchase last week. I went to the Amazon Smile web site looking for golf club head covers. I found the ones I wanted and clicked on them and made the purchase. A confirmation email was sent, two days later they arrived and a small amount went to the LECC. As a matter of fact when I log into the Amazon Smile site a little note on the site says , "Supporting: Lake Edward Conservation Club." The LECC continues to be the organization I support until I make a change. Give it a try, it's not a choice that can't be undone if you don't want to continue. Every little bit helps.



## AIS By the Numbers in Crow Wing County

We are dealing with a single invasive species in our lake, Curly Leaf Pondweed. It has been present for a while and efforts to contain it are currently being implemented. A big thanks to those of you who made a donation to this project. Other lakes in Crow Wing County are dealing with different AIS species that can't be contained nor can they be eradicated at any price. The two that get the most attention are Zebra Mussels and Eurasian Milfoil. Neither can be stopped nor contained from spreading once they are introduced into a lake.

Here is a snapshot of AIS in Crow Wing County.

59 lakes have been identified as having an AIS species.

47 of those lakes have Zebra Mussels

12 of the lakes have Eurasian Milfoil

1992 was the year Bay Lake was infested with Eurasian Milfoil, the first in the county to be infested.

The two closest lakes to us with an AIS presence are Pelican and North Long lake.

Three lakes were added to the infested list in 2016 - Kimble, Hubert and Lower Cullen.

Lake Edward is the largest lake in Crow Wing County that does not have Zebra Mussels.

# Cormorants



Last year the Pelican Lake Owners Association applied for and was granted a permit from the U.S. Wildlife Service to reduce the number of cormorants that nest on an island in their lake. The Public Resource Depredation Order allowed state fish and wildlife agencies, federally recognized Tribes, and USDA Wildlife Services to lethally take double-crested cormorants to protect fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats that are managed by public source agencies for public benefit. The permit was granted to protect the island from environmental damage. There is debate about the effect cormorants have on the fish population but the Pelican Association took the position they were harming the lake and applied for a grant to reduce the population their request was granted based on environmental damage not on fish population degradation. The nesting population was reduced by half. Many of the cormorants nesting on Pelican often come to feed on Lake Edward and return to the island on Pelican to roost. Cormorants are very opportunistic feeders and an adult eats an average of one pound of fish per day. You probably have seen the huge flocks on our lake last year so you can imagine at a pound a day how they can impact the populations of fish in our lake. The Pelican Lake Association was prepared to apply for a permit for 2017 to further reduce the population but they were denied by a recent court ruling.

The U.S. District Court ruled that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can no longer issue permits until an Environmental Impact Statement is initiated and completed to determine the effects of how a reduction of double-crested cormorants will have on the cormorant population. That study has begun and, though it is hard to determine a timeframe, could take anywhere from one to three years to complete. The Pelican Lake Association was disappointed in the ruling and has no options except to wait for the completion of the study to assess their next step. Other strategies have been tried in the past, for example, introducing goats to the island, but by far the most success they had in reducing the population was working with the U.S. Wildlife Service to obtain permits to lethally exterminate the birds.



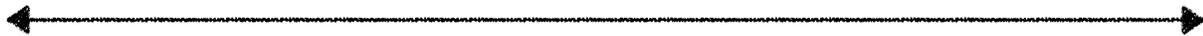
What does that mean? Unless another option is found, and that doesn't seem likely, nothing can be done to control the cormorant population on Pelican Lake this year and probably for the next few years. Large sighting of flocks maybe a common occurrence on the lakes in our area.

Lake Associations are the stewards of the lake and are at the fore front guarding and protecting our beautiful lakes. Clean waters are unfortunately not a given and monitoring and protecting lakes is falling more and more on lake associations and less and less on local and state government agencies.

# Big Eaters

Cormorants aren't alone in having voracious appetites. Northerns are born predators and are dominating their surroundings in many lakes. They are very opportunistic. The DNR in recent years noticed an alarming trend and commissioned studies to determine why the northern population in lakes is expanding but sizes are decreasing. Lake Edward provides excellent spawning areas for northerns which in turn further increase northern numbers and decrease sizes. To reverse the situation, the DNR put up a northern barrier on the south side of the lake at the inlet to the pond that leads to the Half Moon. The hope is to reduce the number of fish spawning and thereby reduce the number of northerns hatched. The DNR placed a barrier in the same spot last year too. A barrier alone isn't going to solve the exploding northern problem.

Another strategy on the horizon will take effect next year. Beginning May of 2018 the daily limit for northerns will increase from two to ten. Ten northerns under 26 inches can be kept. All northerns between 22 inches and 26 must be released and two fish over 26 can be kept. The regulation doesn't have a name but an appropriate tag could be the "hammer handle" regulation. Years down the road the hope is that perch, crappie and sunfish sizes would increase and walleye stocking would be more effective and hammer handle numbers would decrease. It seems like the Hammering Hammer Handle contest the past two years on our lake is another strategy working to help the situation.



Q: Which fish species are the first to spawn in Minnesota lakes during the spring?

A: Northern pike usually spawn first when water temperatures are in the low 40s. There is often still ice on the main lakes when pike run into tributary streams, rivers or wetlands to spawn. Walleye spawn a bit later, followed by yellow perch, muskellunge, bass and crappie/bluegill.

Henry Drewes, DNR regional fisheries manager

## AIS Help Coming to a Public Access Near You

Crow Wing County has published a revised final aquatic invasive species (AIS) plan for 2017. For purposes of allocating their budget, the County considers Lake Edward to be "very high" risk to become infested because we are located near infested lakes (example: zebra mussels in Pelican Lake). So the County has allocated 400 hours of time for an AIS helper for our public boat landing. This is the same allocation as in 2016.

Several private boat landings on the lake are mentioned in the County's plan as "low risk" because they are not open to the public. The AIS cleaning station just south of Crosslake will continue to be funded.

# Lions Club Hammering Hammer Handle Fishing Contest 2017



Lake Edward was a buzz on Saturday, February 28. Eighty five contestants were entered in the 2017 Lions Club Hammering Hammer Handle Contest that weekend. The first difference between the 2017 contest and the 2016 contest was evident immediately, fishermen couldn't access the lake from the public access because of an ice ridge. They quickly changed plans and entered the lake from the Cozy Bay Resort property. The weather was a windy, chilly 34 degrees-another change from last year's sunny 66 degree day. Rules were similar to last year. Each fisherman could enter the total weight of three fish. The whole lake was in play, fish houses were allowed and two lines were used. First prize was \$250 dollars, second \$175 dollars and third \$125 dollars. Only one fisherman caught three fish, six caught two and a few caught one. The Baxter Insurance Group and Rod Benders Fishing League contributed \$100 for three prizes. \$50 for the smallest, \$30 for the second smallest, and \$20 for the third smallest. Action was brisk but the fish were elusive and hard to hook, lots of action but the fish weren't hanging on to the line. One

theory for the skittish bite was the "noisy ice". Catching a fish almost guaranteed a prize since only 19 fish were caught and there were 53 prizes. Of the 19 fish, ten northernns were between 24 and 28 inches. Anything over 22 inches was released. One 25 inch walleye was hooked. Weather, action, access, winners, many things were different this year but one thing wasn't, the biggest winner. This year \$1,750 was raised for the Shop Youth in Brainerd.

Mike LaFlex, program organizer, wants to thank all who made a contribution to the event that ranged from gift cards to individual donations to cash to buying a ticket. Contestants

overwhelmingly requested the contest remain on Lake Edward next year. Much stays the same for next year, 150 tickets are to be sold, entry fee will remain \$20 dollars, it will be on the last weekend of February again. Anyone with a donation for next year should go to the Brainerd Lions Club web site. A Facebook page is soon to be set up. Tickets will go on sale for the 2018 contest in January and those on the mailing list will be notified for an early entry.

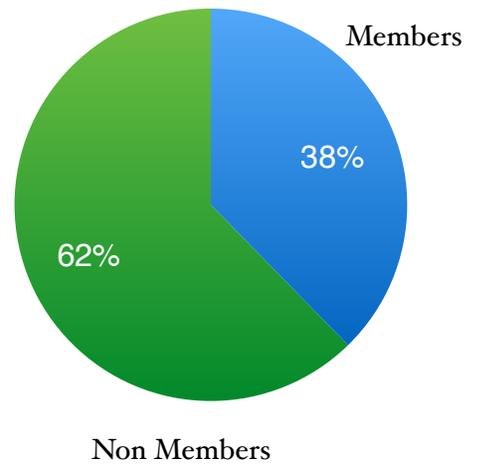


# More pictures from the contest.

Thanks Cindy Clow for taking pictures.



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.



There is still plenty of room in the pie to join the LECC if you are not yet a member.

### 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 may be 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.

**Thanks to all who support the LECC through dues, donations, and volunteering!**



### Stars and Stripes Parade

Who doesn't like a parade? The Lake Edward July 4th parade is scheduled on the books. Anyone interested in being part of the parade meet at the Lake Edward Resort on the east side of the lake at 7:00 pm on the fourth of July. The boat parade starts at the Lake Edward Resort dock and circles the lake. If you want to watch the parade and still participate just jump in when the parade passes your dock and peel off when you've made the full circle. Join you neighbors and be part of the parade.

## 2017 Ice Out



The DNR stocked 2 million walleye fry into Lake Edward in May.



## Fast Facts

\*Less than two percent of Minnesota's 11,842 lakes are listed as infested with zebra mussels.

\*The Crow Wing County Land Services Department inspected nearly 43,000 watercraft for AIS in 2015. Twenty of the inspections found zebra mussels.

Minnesota law requires docks and boat lifts to be out of the water for at least 21 days before putting them in another body of water. This requirement is an important tool for preventing the spread of zebra mussels and other aquatic invasive species.

## Calendar

**June 24 Annual Membership Meeting 10:00 am - noon Lake Edward Town Hall.**

**Lake Edward July 4th parade. Meet Tuesday, July 4th at 7:00 at the Lake Edward Resort.**

**August 12th Open Board Meeting 10:00 Lake Edward Town Hall**

**Hammering Hammer Handle Contest Saturday, February 25th 2018. Contest headquarters at the Lake Edward boat ramp.**

## Visitors Passing Through on April 5th



# Word Scramble

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to Lake Edward

c b p l u i

s s c c e a

\*It wasn't your imagination, 2016 was the wettest year on record in Minnesota. 40+ inches, about a foot more precipitation than average. Remember Mother Nature dictates the lake level.



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