

the LAKE LETTER

Volume 21, Issue 2

Fall, 2011

THE NEWS FROM THE WATERSHED OF EAST BATTLE LAKE, VINING MN



*Protecting
water quality for
fishing,
boating, swimming
and
the next generation*

Board chooses to be bold and pro-active on invasive . . .

LAKE VEGETATION MAPPING PROJECT WILL ALLOW RESPONSE TO INVASIVE VEGETATION; PROJECT BEGINS IN JULY

GREATEST CONCERNS OF

The aquatic vegetation in East Battle Lake has been an increasing concern in recent years and one of the greatest concerns of lake-shore owners.

There have been fears for swimming as well as boat motors. One report is that a dog got tangled in the weeds and drowned. Wild rice, as well as other plants, seems to be increasing. To be able to check this growth and to identify new plant growth *and invasive* species the mapping will allow comparison and identification of aquatic plants in the water.

Permits to clear weeds often require plant info that will be available to East Battle Lake Watershed members.

Landowners around the lake are being asked to join the organization with an option to donate and share in the mapping costs.

Mapping is expected to be done in summer 2012 when the plants reach full-growth.

A professional has been hired. Samples will be taken so the entire lake will be mapped and the plants identified.

The funds received from grants will be used plus the organization is exploring additional grant funds to add to the membership funds received.

The cost of this project is about \$7000. In the long term lake owners will be able to identify if/when a new or invasive plant enters the lake, thus then being able to take action to protect the lake.

“Using our funds to avoid a future problem is certainly a step in the right direction rather than waiting for a disaster, then taking precious time waiting for a solution . . .” commented president Chuck Olson.

Zebra Mussels invade Seven Otter Tail County Lakes . . . and nearby lakes

Bass, Crystal, Fish, Little Pelican, Pelican and Prairie Lakes plus Pelican River

The DNR has responded using an experimental remedy on Lake Rose here in Otter Tail County. So far, none has been reported on East Battle and the residents seem quite alert and careful as this would devastate East Battle Lake also. Mussels remove the oxygen from the water thus fish will disappear. Neighboring Douglas County lakes have been infested with the zebra mussels also.

Zebra mussels change 'Life at the cabin'---

don't let this happen to East Battle Lake; let's learn a lesson

Published: August 14, 2011 - By EMMA MURRAY, The Forum of Fargo, N.D. PELICAN LAKE, Minn. (AP) -

Until this year Erika Johnson had the ideal beach cottage on Pelican Lake -- a summer retreat that has been in her family for four generations. The family celebrated the cottage's centennial earlier this July, but this year was different. Instead of a summer spent on the lake worry free, now Johnson and other Pelican Lake-goers are worrying about putting on shoes before taking a dip in the lake -- zebra mussels are taking over the waters of Pelican Lake.

"Zebra mussels were covering the dock, the boat lift, and we knew we were in trouble."



"We had zebra mussels last year, and we didn't see anything, and we didn't notice them," she said. "We took a boat out in the fall and were like, 'Oh my gosh, what is this?' Zebra mussels were covering the dock, the boat lift, and we knew we were in trouble."

That trouble was illustrated this summer when Johnson had a family reunion at the cottage.

"This is actually our first summer that we're seeing zebra mussels, and it is amazingly awful," she said. "We had a big family reunion, and I'm talking all the kids had bloody feet coming out (of the lake)."

But for Johnson and other water recreation lovers, there is hope out there, hope that's been 20 years in the making by a New York scientist.

Dan Malloy, research scientist with the University at Albany, is behind the 20 years of research.

"Unfortunately certain things in life grab our attention because they cause problems rather than the benefits, and that's been the story really with zebra mussels from the start," he said.

VINING, the town by EAST BATTLE LAKE . . .

1. *The Vining Post Office is being considered for closure this year.* Locals have met, have sent letters and met with postal officials in a meeting. The decision is awaited.

2. *Go on the web to view the Galletry of Historical Photos of Vining:*

<http://www.lakesnwoods.com/ViningGallery.htm>

Vining Info: As of the census of 2000, there were 68 people, 32 households and 20 families residing in the city. The population density was 53.6 people per sq. mile. There were 46 housing units at an average density of 36.3 sq miles. The racial makeup of the city was 95.59% white and 4.41% of two or more races. There were 32 households out of which 21.9% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 56.3% were married couples, 3.1% had a female householder with no husband, and 37.5% were non-families, 37.% of all households were made up of individuals and 21.9% had someone living alone who was age 65 or older. In the city the population was spread out with 19.1% under the age of 18, 2.9% from 18-24, 25% from 25 to 44, 20.6% from 45 to 64, and 32.4% who were over 65. The median age was 50 years. There were slightly more males than females in the population.

Vining is a city in Nidaros Township, platted in the fall of 1882 and incorporated April 26, 1908. The name was given by the officers of the Northern Pacific Railroad. The village had a railroad station and the post office began in 1882. The founders and early settlers tried to name the city "Lund" but that name has already been used. "Lund" was the name of the primary founder of Vining and was the owner of several businesses including the bank. (Note the Lund name on the post office exterior which was formerly the bank).

"The key to preventing the spread of invasive species is to educate lake users on what these plants look like and how they are spread. . . the best plan of attack is to prevent . . ."



VEGETATIVE INVASIVE SPECIES PUT US ON ALERT

"Exotic", "alien", and "non-native" can all be used to describe a species that does not naturally occur and has been brought here either accidentally or intentionally. In contrast, "native" plants occur naturally and are fully integrated into the ecosystem. Native aquatic plants are good and necessary habitats for fish, birds and other aquatic organisms.

Not all alien plants are harmful, but those that are can disrupt the natural ecosystem, out-compete native plants and take over large areas. These plants are considered "invasive" and "nuisance" species. Invasive aquatic plants can get out of control because there is nothing in the ecosystem naturally to keep the population in check. When invasive plants take over a lake or wetland, the biodiversity in the ecosystem can decrease, meaning that there are fewer different kinds of plants and animals that can live there. When invasive plants form dense mats, they change the habitat and make it unsuitable for fish, birds and other aquatic organisms.

One East Battle Lake nuisance is the wild rice vegetation. In Minnesota the state is the owner of wild rice and other aquatic **vegetation** growing in public waters (M.S. 84.091). The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources regulates the harvest, transplanting, and destruction of aquatic plants in public waters through a permit program. The purpose of the Aquatic Plant Management permit program is to protect the beneficial functions of aquatic **vegetation** while allowing riparian property owners to obtain reasonable access to public waters.

CURLY LEAF PONDWEED Curly leaf is an exotic (not native) plant specie introduced from Europe in the early 1900's. It is a rooted, submerged aquatic plant that grows aggressively in 4-10 ft. of water. Though it loves light, it is an opportunist; it can tolerate low light and can grow under algae blooms or ice. Curly leaf affects lakes in several ways, making it a very obnoxious aquatic exotic plant. The plants grow rapidly in early spring, reaching its peak in early summer crowding out native plants. Its dense floating mats interfere with swimming, fishing, boating and recreational enjoyment of lakes. As it decays in early July, it releases nutrients fueling excessive algae blooms and produces difficult dead plant disposal as wind and waves deposit plants on shorelines.

INTRODUCING RUNOFF - IDENTIFYING Lake Runoff Problems

PROBLEM: Is the water near the shore cloudy?

Possible Cause: Excess sediment reaching the water.

PROBLEM: Is there an oil rainbow film on the water?

Possible Cause: Possible petroleum contamination

PROBLEM: Are there algal blooms, green scum or abundant plant growth in the water?

Possible Cause: Excess nutrients such as nitrate or phosphorus reaching the water.

PROBLEM: Are washouts, trenches, small piles of sediment, leaves or debris found at bottom of slopes?

Possible Cause: Excessive water runoff across the property.

PROBLEM: Is your shoreline eroding?

Possible Cause: Removal of natural vegetation for property development or creation of beaches, both on-shore and in the lake; dredging, filling, or construction on or near the shoreline, trampling of banks, inadequate protection against runoff from roofs, driveways, roads, or other developed areas.

EAST BATTLE LAKE MEMBERSHIP and DONOR LIST



These memberships are for 2011 - 2012 to the next Annual Meeting
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT BY MEMBERSHIP.
Donations to Fish stocking and Mapping are appreciated.



ALBERS, Jacque
AMUNDSON, Lee/Ruth
ANDERSON, Ken/Gerrie =
ANDERSON, Martin/Kimberly =
AXELSON, Gloria =
BAUMBARGER, Denton/Betty = #
BEALS, Roger
BERGE, Louis/Rita #
BIRKEY, Tom/Doris
BISTODEAU, Donald/Janet =
BISTODEAU, Ralph/LouAnn
BOCHENSKI, Peggy = #
BOEHLAND, Leon/Carol
BOWLING, John/Sara
BRETH, Tom/Joan #
BROGARD, Richard/Lorraine
BROWN, Ruth
BUZZELL, Terry/Kathleen = #
CHAPMAN, Harvey/Eileen =
CHRISTIANSON, Terry/Harriet
CHRISTOPHERSON, Ed/Sylvia
CHRISTOPHERSON, Jim/Sandra =
COX, Robert/Becky
DAY, Kevin/Marlys #
DE RUYTER, Mark/Ruth =
DOELY, David/Cheryl #
DREYER, Jon/Lisa =
EGGLESTON Trust =
EIDE, Gary/Ardell Ruth
FALLSTEAD, Ray =
FENNER, Kenneth/Colleen =
FITZLOFF, Greg/Faith #
FRITZ, Robert/Sharron =
FURSE, Ronald/Nancy
GOODRICH, Jack/Susan
GREEN, Russell/Gail
GREENAGEL, Thomas/Diane
GROEBNER, Joe/Barb #
GUTZMER Lew/Loretta =
HANSON, Peter/Elaine =
HANSON, Richard/EmmyLou
HEILMAN, Robert/Rebecca #
HELVICK, Allen/Lois =
HENRICKSON, Gary #
HILCHEN, Wayne/Anne #
HOFFMAN, Edward/Cheryl #
HOLMES, Thomas/Jane
HOWARD, Chuck/Kathy
HUBER, Jeanne, Richard
JACOBSON, Andrew/OVERVOLD, Carol
JENSON, Ken/Beverly #
JOHNSON, Richard/Krista
JURS, Donald =
KALSEIM, Robert/Sue = +
KENNEDY, Richard/Mary =
KENSOK, Mike/Marsha #
KIBBLE, William/Jennifer =
KLETT, Keith/Kay =
KNEISL, Mike/Annette
KOCON, Lawrence/Diane
KOESTLER, Kerry/Shirley
KORVER, Keith/Heidi =
KRUETZIAN, David/Barbara #
LARSON, Loren/Lucille =
LAURENT, Clyde/Barbara =
LEBAKKEN, Craig/Susan =
LEE, Lowell/Marcia =
LERUD, Russell =
LEU, Art/Phyllis
LINDBERG, Michael/Stephanie #
LIPPKA, Bill/Jonalyn =
LOGE, Carl/Brenda =
LOGE, William/Jean Anne =
LOKKEN, Merlyn/Kathleen
LUNDGREN, Shirley
MACK, John/Karen #
MARTIN, Donald/Mary
McCLINTICK, Steven/Juanita =
MILES, Robert/Janet =
MILLERBERND, Clyde/Deloris =
MILNE, William/Beverly =
MOE, Charles/Shirley =
MOEN, Shirley
MOIR, James/Margaret = #
MONTAGUE, Tom/Patty #
MOON, Anne =
MOORE, Linda
MORSE, James/Wilma =
MOUW, Marion/Darlene =
NELSON, John/Judy =
OLSON, Chuck/Barbara = #
OLSON, Duane/Yvonne
OSTERMAN, Carol =
PAGEL, Carol =
PEDDYCOART, Roland/Sandra #
PEDDYCOART, Ronald/Mary
PETERSON, Webster/Kari Albers =
PEYERL, Gerald/Diana =
PUTNAM, Charles/Connie
QUINE, Stephen/Jean
REDING, James/Linda =
RICHTER, Bonnie, STOKKA, Tanya
ROCKSWOLD, Gary/Wendy #
ROETMAN, Lois
RONKEN, Ron
ROTENBERGER, Ted/Lois
ROWLAND, William/Jill =
RUST, Kenneth
SABA, Mark/Lisa
SAETRE, Rollie/Jan
SCHEID, Wilfred/Rose =
SCHILL, Dennis/Roberta
SCHWARTZ, Richard/Diane
SCHWARTZ, Ronald/Jeanette #
SCOTT, Glenn/Cindy
SEABURG, Greg/Noella #
SEVERSON, Eric/Amy
SIMMONS, Steven/Deborah #
SIMON, Kathleen =
SINNER, Roger/Bettye
SMITH, George/Donna =
SMITH, Leonard/Eleanor =
SNETTING, Paul/Terry #
SPIES, Gary/Sharon #
STARKJOHN, William/Connie
STAVE, Randy/Caryl =
STEFFEN, William =
STEUER, Nancy Adolph Yankauskas Trust
TETENS, Dennis/Kathryn
THOMAS, Glen/Arla
THOMPSON, Bill/Vicki
TIMMERS, Ray/THEISEN, Gerald #
TJOSTEM, John/Karen
TWETEN, Carol =
UMLAUF, Dale
UNDERWOOD, Ben #
VANDER BERG, Dave/Gladys
VANDER BERG, Doug/Janet
VANDER BERG, Eldon/Wilma
VOSS, Daniel/Elizabeth =
WALLEVAND, Kevin
WALLY, Chuck/Jan =
WENTZ, William/Paula =
WIEK, Roland =
WIETECKI, Mark/Diane =
WIGERT, Jon/Annette #
WILLIAMS, Thomas/Tammy =
WILSON, Paul/Susan =
YOUNG, Judd/Barbara =

*Should your name be missing, misspelled or your donation is incorrect,
please contact Chuck Olson, 218-769-4296, eastbattlelake@gmail.com*

PRESIDENT'S POSTING - accomplishments in 2011

1. We submitted a **Lake Management Plan (LMP)** in January funded by a grant of \$2,500 awarded in 2010 by the Healthy Lakes and Rivers Partnership Program administered by the West Central Initiative with offices in Fergus Falls. Partners in providing support and education for the grantees included Minnesota Waters with offices in St Cloud, Initiative Foundation with offices in Little Falls, and the East Otter Tail County Soil and Water Conservation District with offices in Perham. Upon approval of the LMP, we received an additional \$2,500 for beginning the implementation of the Plan (Team Co-Leaders: Chuck Olson, Sue Kalseim)

2. We contributed **\$500 to the Otter Tail County COLA (Coalition of Lake Associations)** to support the publishing of the *Otter Tail County Shoreland Guide to Lake Stewardship*. We received 350 copies of the Guide and were distributed via Area Directors to more than 300 lake property owners.

3. We held our **Annual Meeting** at the Vining Community Center on Saturday, July 2, with a record breaking attendance of over 100 property owners. A brunch was available followed by a short business meeting to present written annual reports by the leadership team and the election of officers and area directors for the 2011-2012 term. Eric Bergeson of Fertile, MN, presented information about shoreline plantings (See 4, below).

4. **At the Annual Meeting Eric Bergeson** presented an entertaining and educational session with recommendations for plantings that can help us limit runoff into the lake. Runoff brings in organic materials (grass clippings, leaves) and fertilizer residues that contribute to the growth of aquatic vegetation and algae in the lake. His recommendations included deep rooted native plants that could be planted in the yard as well as in a buffer zone along the lakeshore to reduce runoff. This session was part of the educational objective of the LMP project to increase buffer zones and to reduce runoff.

5. We sent out a **Lake Survey** requesting shoreline owners to assess their lots for runoff and to indicate topics that they were interested in to reduce the runoff as well as to enhance their respective properties. These questionnaires were sent on to Steve Henry, Shoreline Specialist with the East Otter Tail County Soil and Water Conservation District. Forty (40) owners responded to the questionnaire.

6. We measured the **water clarity** and took water samples for analysis of chlorophyll-a and phosphorous content in both the north and south sections of the lake. Samples were taken monthly May thru Sept. (Co-leaders Leonard and Eleanor Smith).

7. We evaluated the **water clarity and took water samples** for analysis of chlorophyll-a and phosphorus content at each of the five inlets to the lake. Samples were taken in May and in September. (Team co-leaders Leonard & Eleanor Smith).

8. We maintained the outlet channel to **West Battle Laketo keep it free-flowing** by removing aquatic vegetation restricting the flow and dismantling a beaver dam as needed during the summer. (Team Leader: Bob Fritz)

9. We made **periodic counts of the loons**, adults and chicks, that inhabit the lake. Counts were sent to the Loon Specialist at the Brainerd DNR Office. (Team Leader: Tom Greenagel)

10. We received **donations from members exceeding \$5000** for the November, 2011, fish stocking (Team Leader: Clyde Millerbernd).

11. **Residents in areas around the lake** got together to solve the problem of localized infestations of tent caterpillars and to share in the cost of aerial spraying. This was real teamwork.

12. **When a floating bog broke loose** from Brandborg Creek and floated across to Chippewa Island causing some damage to a couple of docks, residents teamed up and took the initiative to move the bog and prevent further damage. More teamwork by our shoreland owners.

13. **The Leadership Team approved the implementation** of the LMP project to map aquatic vegetation in July at a cost of \$7000 funded from our grant, general fund, donations and future grants. (Team: Sue Kalseim, Peggy Bochenski, Barbara Olson)

14. **The Leadership Team approved a new LMP project** to clean debris left on the ice after ice-fishing season 2012. (*Contact Chuck Olson to volunteer to be team leader*).

15. **We are now developing a website** to go on-line in 2012. (Leader: Bob Fritz - Webmaster: Craig Lebakken)

16. **We received donations of more than \$1000 for aquatic vegetation** mapping in response to the October mailing that went to all shoreland owners, both members and non-members. The mapping project is a part of our LMP. (Project Team: Sue Kalseim, Peggy Bochenski, Barbara Olson).

17. **We offer a big THANK YOU to our Project Team Leaders** listed above and their team members. We thank our Leadership Team for the effort and time they donate to participating in our Association. *AND, we thank our members who support our Association through their memberships and donations* to aquatic vegetation mapping and fish stocking projects. As we go to press we have 150 members, 63 donors to fish stocking and 30 donors to mapping --- and we are expecting more . . .

Enjoy your winter,

Chuck Olson, president



What is RUNOFF?

Rainwater or snowmelt that does not soak into the ground and instead runs off hard surfaces that don't absorb water (impervious surfaces) or washes off lawns and steep slopes is called *runoff*. Impervious surfaces include roofs, driveways, sidewalks, and compacted soils. When the runoff reaches the lake, it can carry with it nutrients, eroded soil sediments, toxic materials, bacteria and other pollutants that can cause reduced water clarity, increased aquatic plants and algae, and impact fish and wildlife habitat.

What was once an occasional cabin along a wild shore has become a ribbon of structures and paved areas circling the lakes. All this construction has added more rooftops, roads, walkways, decks, parking areas and driveways, increasing the amount of impervious surfaces, which act like funnels for runoff to lakes, rivers, and wetlands. Runoff from compacted soils and impervious surfaces also increases erosion and sedimentation.

Managing runoff on your property is the best way to reduce pollutants before they reach the lake. Increasing opportunities for water to soak into the ground (infiltrate) instead of running off is the best way to reduce runoff and filter out the toxic materials.

Maintain Natural Vegetation

Natural vegetation will naturally reduce runoff by holding back the water to provide time for it to soak into the ground.

- When clearing your lot, minimize the removal of wooded areas, trees and low growing shrubs. Their removal causes more rain to fall to the ground instead of landing on leaves and branches.
- Grading large areas of land removes the natural depressions of land where water can pond and soak in.
- Carefully landscape your yard near roads, driveways, and along the shoreline to direct runoff away from the lake.

Practice Good Lawn Management

Maintain a Healthy Lawn to Absorb More Water

- Aerate your lawn to alleviate some of the compaction that turns many lawns into green concrete.
- Mow to a height of two to three inches; mow when dry to prevent clumping. Taller grass provides shade for better root growth, which helps with water absorption.

Consider replacing some of the grass in your lawn area with clover, native grasses, or other groundcovers that don't need watering.

If watering is necessary, water deeply, but infrequently, to encourage deep root growth. Water with lake water. (*Hint: use the nutrients in the lake to make a healthy lawn instead of frequent fertilizer applications.*) Water in the morning, not mid-day or evening.

In hot weather, allow lawn grasses to go dormant so that they require less water and nutrient intake for survival. Water 1/4 to 1/2 inch every two or three weeks to keep crowns from dehydrating beyond the point of recovery.

Rainwater runoff is the #1 source of pollution to our lakes. Residential and urban runoff has been increasing in Otter Tail County in recent years while other sources of pollution have been declining.

East Battle Lake, the lake we love, is a 1,949 acre mesotrophic (moderately fertile) lake located in south central Otter Tail County approximately two miles north of Bemidji, MN. East Battle Lake is connected to West Battle Lake via Battle Lake Creek. The immediate watershed is composed of agricultural land interspersed with hardwood woodlots. The maximum depth is 87 feet; however, 35% of the lake is 15 feet or less in depth. The shoreline length is 14.2 miles. A public access is located off of County Highway 55 along the northwest shoreline. The secchi disk reading, a standard measure of water clarity, was 8.5 feet. Previous secchi disk readings have ranged from 4.5 to 12.3 feet. A majority of the shoreline is developed with homes, cabins, and resorts. Sand and gravel compose a majority of the shoreline substrates. The most abundant types of submerged aquatic plants are chara and variable pondweed. The most common emergent aquatic plants are common cattail and hardstem bulrush. These emergent plants provide valuable fish and wildlife habitat and are critical in maintaining good water quality. Emergent plants also provide critical spawning habitat for several fish species including northern pike, largemouth bass, and panfish. They also serve as important nursery areas for many species of fish. Because of their ecological value, emergent plants cannot be removed without a DNR permit. East Battle Lake is a popular angling lake. Northern pike, largemouth bass, walleye, and bluegill are the dominant gamefish species in the fish community of East Battle Lake.

Status of Fisheries 2008
<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/showreport.html?downum=56013800>

Building a home and establishing a lawn to the water's edge can cause seven times the amount of phosphorus and 18 times the amount of sediment to enter the water compared to a natural shoreline.

If we love our lakes, we have to change our ideas about what is a good lawn for shoreland properties. Limit the amount of lawn and keep it as natural as possible to reduce maintenance and increase its ability to absorb runoff.

CLIP a form below to:

1. JOIN EAST BATTLE LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

by mailing your check with the form below.

2. RESERVE YOUR WATERSHED DIRECTORY BY CONTACTING US BY EMAIL, PHONE OR THE FORM BELOW.

YES, I am paying Watershed Membership \$20.00

Donations: Fish-stocking Mapping
My check totals: \$ _____

Name _____
Lake Address _____
MAILING Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone(s) _____
Email: _____

I prefer to receive notices/newsletters /
by the email address above? yes no

Make out your check to and mail to:
East Battle Lake Watershed Assoc
P. O. Box 85, Vining MN 56588

Yes, please print a Directory for me.

YES, Please hold a directory for me.

Name _____
Lake Address _____
MAILING Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone(s) _____
Email: _____

I prefer to receive notices/newsletter/
by the email address above? yes no

Make out your check to and mail to:
East Battle Lake Watershed Assoc
P. O. Box 85, Vining MN 56588

Plan now to be in Vining for the EAST BATTLE LAKE WATERSHED ASSOC Annual Mtg

The date is tentatively set for Saturday, July 3, 2012

--- usually held at the Community Center and there's been a free breakfast

**The date and details will be announced in the June Newsletter AND
will be posted on the website as soon as the decisions are finalized.**

**You will be invited to the breakfast, the very short business meeting and a knowledgeable
speaker with a subject about lakes**

Following the meeting you may want to visit the Vining Community History Center which is housed upstairs. There are three former classrooms filled with interesting items of the past in the Vining area along with documents and family histories. One room is dedicated to the history of the NYBERGS --- the sculptor, Ken, and his daughter, Karen the NASA Astronaut. Ken has created a scaled model of a grain elevator (his vocation before retirement and sculpting). It is open on a regular schedule during the summer or by appointment anytime. It will be open following the meeting for your perusal.