



Spectacle Lake Improvement Association

Spring 2018 Newsletter

A personal message from your President - by Leon Carson

As I write this, the last of the snow from the April 14-15 weekend blizzard is melting off Spectacle Lake, and the ice-out date is anxiously anticipated so that our summer fun can begin, even though a bit later than usual. Last year ice-out was March 26, and this year it could be into early May.

I hope to see you all at the Annual Meeting on June 2nd which will also be when my terms as President and board Member end. I have enjoyed serving on the Board, and ask that you also consider serving on the SLIA Board, as we have several openings. If interested, please call me at 763-691-0908 and/or indicate your willingness at the meeting. Have a wonderful summer.

The Spectacle Lake Improvement Association Annual Meeting will be held on **Saturday, June 2nd at 10 am** at the **Wyanett Township Hall**, 34894 Nacre St NW, Princeton, MN. We will have guest speakers presenting topics important to Association members, and they will be available to answer questions you might have.

Isanti County Sheriff, Chris Caulk, will give an update on activities in his department and around the lake. Also, Todd Kulaf, Conservation Technician with the Isanti Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) will give an update on invasive species and shoreline projects we are undertaking.

Spectacle Lake Improvement Association News and Activities

Once again your Association Board has planned several fun activities, including the Annual 4th of July Boat Parade, the Annual Ice Cream Social and the Annual Picnic. All the events will be held "rain or shine!" Signs will be up around the lake as a reminder of the dates and times. Also, e-mails will be sent out to everyone, so it is very important to include your e-mail address when you pay your dues.

If you have not viewed our **website**, spectaclelake.org, or joined our **FaceBook page**, **Spectacle Lake Improvement Association**, please consider doing that today! We will post our organizational activities on the website, and the FaceBook page is a good way to connect with your neighbors and to find out what is happening on the lake.

The **Annual 4th of July Boat Parade** was again a huge success last year. There were many floats, a lot of creativity, and fantastic themes. Hopefully, we can have even more floats in 2018. You don't have to spend a lot of time and money to participate and there are a lot of spectators all around the lake that enjoy seeing

the floats. So please join in this year. The parade will begin at **2 pm** at Manke's Resort. An e-mail will be sent out later regarding parade details.

There will be a total of seven prizes awarded by the parade judges:

- Kids' prize (awarded for the best children's theme)
- 4th of July Spirit Award (Patriotic)
- 1st through 5th place prizes awarded to the top contestants of any theme

The Sanders have again agreed to host the **Ice Cream Social** on Saturday, July 28, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Minnow races will be held for the kids. The Ice Cream Social is a great time to get together to visit with your neighbors while enjoying some delicious ice cream! The address is 5482 336th Lane, Cambridge.

The **Annual Summer Picnic** last year was well attended and once again, thanks to Leon Carson, everyone went home with a prize or two or three!. Please plan on attending this year. It's a great opportunity to meet new friends from around the lake. We thank Rick and Jan Meier for continuing to host the picnic. It will be held at their place on Saturday, August 25, starting at 1:00 pm. Meat, buns, and beverages will be provided. Everything else is pot luck. If possible please bring your chairs. The address is 5178 337th Ave NW, Cambridge. There will also be minnow races for the kids.

Isanti County Coalition of Lake Associations (ICCOLA) by Jim Shomenta

Last year the above association was started in Isanti County. It consists of all but one of the lakes in the county that have lake associations. Our goals are to share information and work among ourselves in a variety of areas to help keep our lakes clean, safe, and enjoyable.

The first meeting of the year for ICCOLA was held Wednesday 4/25/18. There were three major areas discussed at the meeting. The first dealt with the county-supplied watercraft inspections at boat launching sites. The second was to support the Isanti County Soil and Water Conservation District to work with Isanti County to establish and fund a rapid response treatment program for newly discovered Aquatic Invasive Species in one of our lakes. The third was establishing dialogues with township, city, county and state elected officials to help us fulfill our COLA's goals. The coalition will meet monthly through the summer and early fall.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Update by Rick Meier

Boat Inspections: To help prevent AIS from entering our lake, boat & trailer inspections were performed at the DNR boat launch last summer. Inspections were scheduled for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday afternoons. We plan to continue with these inspections this summer.

Curly-leaf Pondweed (CLP) was treated last spring. Four stands of it had been identified in the lake survey performed via the rake-toss method. The DNR permitted herbicide treatment in two of those areas, the largest being in Turtle Bay. A rake toss survey of the treated areas showed excellent plant kills.

CLP turions (seeds) do not respond to herbicides and instead remain dormant on the lakebed for three to five years. We have applied for a follow-on permit for treating again this spring to kill the newly emerged plants.

Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM): We didn't treat for EWM in 2017 but we did get a permit to hand pull it in the small bay at the easternmost part of the lake. There was a group of five wonderful volunteers with waders working that day. We had limited success and yet learned a lot about pulling EWM. One of the difficulties we had was distinguishing invasive EWM from the native species while the plants were submerged. A lake survey will be done in early summer to determine if EWM will be treated this year.

Zebra Mussels: Keeping our fingers crossed on this one. Last year there were over 250 Minnesota water bodies infested with zebra mussels and they are coming closer. Boat inspectors last summer at Blue Lake turned away at least two boats with zebra mussels. A couple of things we all can do..... Be aware that zebra mussels can survive for three weeks out of the water and it is illegal to transport zebra mussels. If you know of boaters coming from a lake infested with zebra mussels, ask them not to launch here or to properly decontaminate the boat first. Check the DNR's list of infested lakes before buying used docks, lifts, swim rafts and other equipment. Be sure that contaminated items have been properly decontaminated and then are kept dry for at least 21 days before use.

Purple Loosestrife was spotted again along our shoreline! This is a garden plant that was brought to North America from Europe in the early 1800's as a garden flower and has since gotten out of control. Purple loosestrife is an aggressive invasive plant that chokes out native wetland plants, destroying the habitat that is needed for animals and waterfowl. It has engulfed millions of acres of wetlands and is now illegal to sell in 24 states. Each plant can produce up to two million seeds annually and once it takes root, it can quickly engulf a wetland. The seeds are tiny and can spread by wind, water, birds, animals, and even on your shoes. The DNR allows control without a permit but prohibits spraying herbicides that could enter the water directly or through runoff. If you see purple loosestrife on your property, we encourage you to control it using proper techniques. You can contact me or a board member for advice. Below is the web address for a video with more information to identify and control purple loosestrife.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K0UWgkL0_BQ

Our association is collaborating with other associations within our county to share best practices and plan for rapid-response action when needed to combat the threat of a zebra mussels or other AIS infestations... before they spread further and cause permanent damage to property values and the ecosystem.

Invasive Species Opt-Out Notice is to be used if you do not want invasive species treated within 100 ft. of your shoreline. The DNR allows the Association to utilize this type of notice to eliminate the need to get written approval from each individual property owner prior to treatment. If you do not want invasive species treated in front of your property please take a look at the notice on the last page of this letter and follow the directions.

2018 Dues Statement Enclosed. Our Association dues remain at just \$25, however we continue to request that you voluntarily donate an additional \$25 or more surcharge to help offset the increasing cost of keeping invasive species out of our beautiful lake. Thank You in advance for this consideration and support.

Inquiring minds want to know...

One of our esteemed citizens, Warren Schluck, has been bothered by the heavy crappie fishing in Turtle Bay during spring spawning season. Se he wrote to the DNR and received this response (which has been abridged) from Leslie George, Area Fisheries Supervisor.

"A portion of the crappie population will tend to congregate in these shallow, quickly-warming areas early in the spring to feed. Shortly thereafter they move out in search of suitable spawning habitat. Black Crappie sexually mature when they are 6 inches long, smaller than what anglers generally keep. As a result, spawning will occur even if anglers crop off a bunch of the larger crappies. Anglers harvest crappies all year long these days, therefore it is tough to consider that protecting them in just one small spot for a short time of year makes biological sense/impact. In addition, biologists currently suspect it only takes a few successful crappie nests to produce a decent year class. Crappie populations are *naturally* cyclical due to variation in year class strength – resulting in periods of good fishing followed by mediocrity until another successful year class is generated and matures. Compared to other game fisheries, crappie fisheries are pretty resilient to fishing pressure."

Historical tidbit by Mery Gerdin, as told by Phyllis (Lundberg) Jones

In the **1940s**, much of the land on the point of Spectacle Lake was owned by Albert and Edna Larson, grandparents of Phyllis Jones. The Larsons had two children, Ferne and Curtis. In the 40s, Curtis and his brother-in-law Vince Lundberg built a cabin on the west side of the inner circle on the point (where Gary Puchtel lives currently). Ferne and Vince moved from the Twin Cities and lived in the cabin with their children for around 4 years. Phyllis remembers that the Scout Camp was nearby, and that a doctor lived across the road from them. Other than that, there were few cabins. She has some distinct childhood memories, such as roller-skating at the rink owned by the Johnsons and, later, the Barrs. Phyllis attended West Point School from 5th - 8th grade. Her mother was on the back porch pumping water when she was struck by lightning that knocked her shoes off, but did not result in permanent damage. Phyllis's brothers, who were 4,6,and 8 years old at the time, wanted to go fishing in the lake, so they took a boat that was moored at the swimming beach and left shore. They were rescued by their mother before drifting too far away. Phyllis also remembers tobogganing down to the lake on the hill across the road. She also stated that her brother buried a roll of pennies next to their driveway. Who knows if they remain there? She said that she and her siblings loved living at the lake until they moved to St. Francis to farm there.

Her grandfather, Albert Larson, donated two parcels of land to Wyanett Township. One was called Curtis Park, and is the current swimming beach. The other, called Ferne (with an "e") Park was the boat landing which was eventually taken over by the MN DNR and expanded more recently to its current size.

Do you (or someone you know who may no longer live on the lake) have memories of summers or winters spent on Spec? We want to capture snapshots of what you remember, even if it is only a few sentences. We want feedback from youngsters and oldsters, so you all qualify!

Please contact any of those on the History committee. We would love to hear from you.

Enjoying the lake year around by Carrie Borchardt

On February 10th, 2018, the Long Lake Vintage Snowmobile Racing Crew was happy to host the 2nd Annual "Spec Lake Spectacular" ice-fishing contest near the public boat landing from noon until 3 pm, with a little ice-fishing and a few vintage snowmobile races making for a fun afternoon on the lake!

Forty-nine holes were sold, at \$10 each. Delicious food was donated by the Bradford Roadhouse, and prizes were donated by Mitch and Carrie Borchardt and Curt Schultz (Curt's Sharpening Service and Custom Knives, located on the lake).

Contest winners:

Youngest Angler: Auburn Meier, catching a 16.5", .69# northern. \$50 cash prize.

Biggest Fish: Brandon Zeibarth, with a 15.25", 1.7# northern. \$125 cash and a cooler.

Smallest Fish: Kevin Crane, with an 8", .18# perch. \$125 cash and a fish battering package.

Most Fish: Brandon Ziebarth, winning another \$125!

Vintage snowmobile race winners were Collin Doran (2 different races), Nathan Vosberg, Bobby Wolcyn, and Ashley and Ryan Schusted.

Vintage snow sled winners were Tim Quest, Dean Vossberg, and Rebecca Quest.

Congrats to the winners and thank you to all who came out to support the event. The funds raised from the event, totaling \$416.81 after cash payouts to the winners, will be donated to the stocking of fish in Spectacle Lake! Now that the snow is gone, enjoy your summer!

The Spectacle Lake Improvement Association Board

Officers

Leon Carson, President

Rick Meier, Treasurer

Meredith Gerdin, Secretary

Jim Shomonta, Vice President

Board Members

Ken Anderson

Rod Darsie

Pete Runyon

Ralph Borchardt

Pam Mikelson

Committees

Membership: Karen Miller, Pam Mikelson

Water Quality: Ralph Borchardt

Boat Parade: Pam Darsie, Linda Noyce

History: Pam Mikelson, Ken Anderson, Mery Gerdin, Rick Meier

Aquatic Invasive Species: Larry Dalien, Leon Carson, Rick Meier

SWCD Shoreline: Jim Shomonta, Pete Runyon, Ken Anderson

Opt-Out Notice on reverse side 

SPECTACLE LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

**P.O. Box 29
Cambridge, MN 55008**

May 1, 2018

Dear Spectacle Lake Property Owner:

The Spectacle Lake Improvement Association (SLIA) intends to contract for treatment to control Eurasian Water Milfoil and Curly-leaf Pondweed in Spectacle Lake in 2018.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has granted to the SLIA a waiver of the requirement that the association obtain the signatures of approval of owners of lake-shore property. Instead, the SLIA is notifying property owners of the treatment through the alternative method of a mailing. Also, this same information will be on the SLIA website at www.spectaclelake.org and the treatment plans will be discussed at the SLIA's annual meeting. The annual meeting this year is scheduled for Saturday, June 2 at 10 am at the Wyanett Township Hall at 34894 Nacre St NW, Princeton, MN 55371.

With regard to the treatment for this year, 2018:

1. The treatment for Curly-leaf Pondweed will occur in early spring. The water temperature has to be between 55 and 60 degrees. The treatment will be Aquathol K herbicide or an alternative herbicide permitted by the DNR and will be applied to the surface of the area where the infestation occurs.
2. The treatment for Eurasian Watermilfoil will occur sometime later. The plants have to be actively growing before treatment can be applied. The treatment will be Renovate (Triclopyr) or another herbicide permitted by the DNR and will be applied to the surface where the infestation occurs.

If you desire that the treatments **do not** occur adjacent to your property, please notify Larry W. Dalien, SLIA Vice President, no later than June 15th at the following address, phone number and email address:

Larry W. Dalien	undr90@gmail.com
33300 Cobalt Dr NW	
Cambridge, MN	
763-422-0710	

Sincerely,

The Spectacle Lake Improvement Association Board of Directors

If you are mailing your request to opt out of treatment, please include the following completed form:

I have read the treatment notification letter for proposed 2018 treatment. I request that no herbicide treatment occur adjacent to our shoreline property.

Signed _____ Date _____

All requested information must be entered for verification purposes.

Year: _____ Pin Number(s): _____

Property Owners Name(s): _____

Lake Property Address: _____

Phone Number(s) Home: _____ Cell: _____

Mailing Address (If different from Lake Property Address) _____