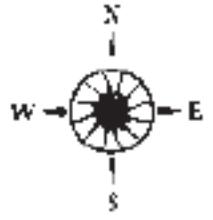


NORTH & SOUTH TWIN LAKES RIPARIAN ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER

VOL 13 No. 1

P.O. BOX 163 • PHELPS, WI 54554

SUMMER 2007

NSTLRA NOW HAS A WEB-SITE!!! CHECK US OUT!!! www.nstwinlakes.com

This website was originally designed and set up by Ginny Parker with the help of George Nickel, a former NSTLRA member. It is now being monitored, updated and managed by our Vice-president, Roger Ganser. We hope you like what you see. There is a place to communicate with us at the site. Please take time to look us over and give us some feed-back. Also, we need pictures for the website. If you have some special lake picture (and who doesn't?) and would be willing to share, please let Roger know either by email roger@ventureinvestors.com or phone him at 545-3650, or better yet, use the link on the website.

Next year, September 2008, only members who request one on their membership application will be mailed a copy of the Newsletter. It may be viewed in its entirety on the web at www.nstwinlakes.com



President's Message...

Well, it's that time of the year when the ducks, geese, humming-birds et al, as well as our snow-birds all head south, leaves are turning from green (this year more like brown) to those golden colors we all enjoy seeing in the early fall.

The only thing we want to have leave or change is still in our lake. Yup, you guessed it, EWM just keeps on floating around.

Some of our lake shore owners still have a "great fear" that a District will impose excessive taxes on their properties. They will not accept the fact that unlike other property taxes established by Conover/Phelps, in which the non-resident owners have no say, any Taxes established by a Lake District have to be approved by the members at the annual meeting. That is to say, a District's ability to tax is governed by the members who are the lake front property owners, regardless of their permanent residency. You do not have to be a resident of Wisconsin to vote at the District's annual meeting to approve the budget for the ensuing year, only a lake front property owner.

If you have not been approached by a representative seeking signatures for becoming a district, contact either Joseph Wallace at 715-479-8083, or Roger Ganser at 715-545-3650.

Fishing for walleyes has been spotty once again this year and the DNR is proposing a slot limit for walleyes on the Twins. For more information on this subject check out Marti Primich's Fishing Report on page 3.

A SPECIAL THANKS to those fine dining establishments on the Twins, like the SUNDOWN with their Great Ribs and KIRKS with their excellent Korean or American food for their NSTLRA membership and support. For those of you who may not know, Kirks, in addition to their fine food, also have gas available at the shore side pier. That's for all of you who do not want to lug those heavy gas cans down to your boats. Please give these establishments our support.

Once again THANKS to all who have supported the NSTLRA efforts to control EWM.

Joe Wallace, President

Fish Boil Report:

The following is the report for our recent Fish Boil. We realized cash donations of \$1018.55 and raffle income of \$445.00 at the end of the evening. After expenses for boat gas to catch the fish, crayfish expense and beverages for the cookers, \$2044.55 was deposited in the bank on August 2, 2007. Chris Hartmen donated pasta salad, Mike Hoffman donated crayfish and jambalaya, Sundown Tavern and Restaurant donated the potatoes, onions, cabbage slaw, dinner rolls and butter, two chicken dinners, two waitresses, two dish people and a cook and one evening of business in the dining room. Bob Van Slate, Nick Amschlinger and Bob Clem went to the UP several times to fish Lake Superior and bring back enough fish for the boil and they cooked them. Several NSTLRA members contacted area businesses for raffle donations, or bought donations from local merchants that were raffled off. Laura Babe and her dad, Steve Hash did just a superior job as hosts of the dinner this year. They did the publicity, worked the door and did the seating. We served 109 fish boils, 16 kiddie dinners and 2 chicken dinners. We decided to serve buffet style this year and had several compliments on the set up.

Thanks to all who made this fund raiser another success!

Steve Hash and Laura Babe will be co-chair for this event again next year.



NSTLRA's 13th Annual Meeting & Picnic:



If you didn't make it to the Annual Meeting you really missed a great speaker on the Fisheries in our lakes!!! — not to mention the tasty food. (See Marty's comments on page 4.) It was very busy with raffles, Tee Shirt sales and Water Testing kits. See related reports throughout the newsletter.

Next Annual Meeting will be held at Conover Community Center Sunday, June 29, 2008.

ADOPT-A-HWY



This summer's drought has affected our roadsides as well as our lake: vegetation is dried and brittle earlier than usual. The native fall plants--purple aster, goldenrod, tansy--are not as lush as in past seasons.

Thanks to the continued efforts of NSTLRA members, our six miles of adopted highway have been mostly litter-free this summer. However, our work is never finished. We will be scheduling a fall clean-up in late September. Please continue to pick up debris on your walks during these spectacular autumn weeks. Remember, our roads are an integral part of the entire ecosystem of these amazing Northwoods.

Priscilla and Ben VandenHeuvel co-Chairs

SAFETY AND RECREATION

I think we made it thru the summer without any major accidents or mishaps. Always a worry with all the boat traffic and little kids / grandkids around..... ..kind of a relief when they've 'all gone home for the summer' isn't it? I de-flated the tubes this morning and put away the skis. I guess that stuff is over for another year. Of course we still have activity on the lake. Lots of fishermen and still the pontoon cruises..... I will keep the buoys out until after the Midwest Musky Classic the first weekend in October. Then they will get pulled. The buoys 'behaved' very nicely this year with only one 'runaway buoy' due to high wind. Sure is nice to have new chain and new buoys. Say, how did you all like the new, bigger buoys at the throughfare? I though they were great and provided dependable lighting all summer long.

With our lack of rain, and shrinking lake depth, some people are having trouble with their boats on their lifts. Good luck with getting the boats off and stored for the winter. I know some of you will be in the water pushing your boats off for the final time... Just doesn't seem fair that southern Wisconsin got deluged with rain this summer, and we hardly got a drop. Perhaps we will get a ton of snow this winter to bring our lake level back to 'normal'. Well, at least we can hope.....

Tom Hickson



Once again the loons have been very active on our lakes this summer. At one point our family saw five separate loons as we took a boat ride along the North Twin shore line between Twin Haven and the thoroughfare.

As the **new Loon Watch coordinator**, I would like to thank those of you who have actively monitored our loon activity on the lake. A special thanks to Dorothy Hash (S. Twin Chair) and Jen Primich (N. Twin Chair) for their full time monitoring activities.

If you have been monitoring loon activity this summer, please send your information to me by November 12 (after fall migration) so the information can be assembled and sent into to the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute at Northland College. Stay tuned in the next newsletter for a summary of our loon activity from 2007.

Elisabeth Sutton
11515 N. St. James Ln.
Mequon, WI 53092
<esutton@wi.rr.com >

The loons are very active on South Twin as reported by Dorothy Hash. On August 10 three pair of loons were observed cruising together for a lengthy period of time in the middle of South Twin by the Hash's, the Hoffman's and the Mallett's. This kind of activity is rather unusual. On August 20 a flock of 37 mergansers was counted by the Hash's. What was humorous was watching one lone gull circling this huge flock as if in a round-up.

Watch for larger groups of loon gatherings as they get ready for their fall migration.

Clean Boats/Clean Water - Ginny Parker

Volunteers have been out at the boat landing more weekends this year, starting opening day, May 5 & 6, Memorial Day weekend, May 26,27 & 27, Fourth of July weekends before and after since July 4th was on a Wednesday this year, June 30, July 1 and July 9 & 10, Greater Midwest Musky Tournament sponsored by Eagle River Chamber of Commerce and covering many lakes in Vilas County, August 18 & 19, Labor Day Weekend, September 1, 2 & 3, Holiday Lodge Musky Tournament Sept, 8 & 9 and Midwest Musky Classic held on N&S Twin, Big Sand and LacVieux Desert, sponsored by Phelps Chamber of Commerce Oct. 5 & 6. We had 32 different volunteers this year who spent a total of 220 hours and checked 967 boats in or out of North and South Twin. The three hour sections are only palatable in the early morning hours: 5 am to 8am; volunteers feel more comfortable working 2 hour shifts. We have had very cooperative and congenial experiences most of the time. Of course, you always have to have at least one jerk in the bunch. The law states that "It is illegal to launch or leave a boat landing with vegetation of any kind on your boat or trailer." You are a candidate for a citation from a DNR personnel if this happens, and any citizen can call the Tip Hot Line 1-877-847-9367 to report this violation. Just be sure to get the car license and boat license to report the infraction. Thanks to: Jeanette DeBano, Jeannine Doyle, Jackie and Jim Fruth, Mark Graf, Roger Ganser and Katherine Naherny, Nancy Hadler, Aggie Hettwer, Tom Hickson, Mike and Mary Hoffman, John Mallet, Ron and Kay Ottoson, Ginny and Jerry Parker, Rueben Pepler, Tom Rail, Penny and Ron Schurrer, Francis Schuster, Mary Smith, Frank Switalski, Wendell Turcsany, Don Zirbel, Ben Vanden Huevel, Dave and Jackie Weiland, and Bill Zabriskie for their time in this very worthwhile program.

Elephant Stew*

Dee Pearce

2 med.-size elephants 2 rabbits (opt.)

Cut elephants into small pieces (takes about 4 weeks). Add enough water to make brown gravy. Cook over kerosene fire at 465° for 2 weeks. Serves 3,800 people. If more are expected, add the 2 rabbits. Do this only if absolutely necessary as most people don't like "hares" in their stew. Recipe may be doubled.

*recipe from Brittany Estates Cook Book, Leesburg, FL 34748

MILFOIL TREATMENT UPDATE: Ginny Parker

We had some pretty disappointing news from Tim Hoyman, consulting aquatic ecologist from Onterra after he and coworker, Eddie, did a post treatment survey, especially after all the money we spent on the project. They were out on the lakes July 16th, and reported that there was an obvious impact from the chemical applications as the plants in those areas have leaf-burn on them and are obviously deformed. However, there is an increase in size and density of all known beds. Basically, our survey indicates that the treatment was not a success. He further reported that the EWM infestation in the bulrushes north on South Twin were the heaviest he and Eddie had ever seen. At that point he wanted someone from the DNR to have an on-site visit. Kevin Gauthier was able to come to meet Tim at the boat landing that same afternoon and see the beds first hand. Onterra, Tim's firm, has been treating Lake Metonga for three years at 100# per acre with little success. This year they increased the treatment to 150# per acre and had very good results according to an informal survey done by Eddie scuba diving. Tim recommends that we increase the dosage on North and South Twin Lakes to the 150# per acre and Kevin Gauthier, DNR, concurs. (EPA guidelines recommendations on the 2,4-D bags are to spread at 100# - 200# per acre.)

The question you may ask is: Why not just treat at 150 lbs/acre right from the start? There are two reasons for this; first, 100 lbs/acre works in most cases, thereby limiting the chemical placed in the lake. Second, the cost of completing the treatments at a higher dose is of course, higher—in fact, it is about 50% higher.

The 2008 treatments will be completed at 150 lbs/acre and will consist of approximately 40% of the treatable acreage on South Twin and nearly all of the treatable acreage on North Twin. As with the 2007 treatments, all areas will be monitored closely before and after the applications are complete. This is something that was not done with our earlier treatments, but has been done since we have hired Onterra, LLC.

Furthermore, since we got this report, Tim has finished the Grant application and Cliff Schmidt has sent the permit forms that need to accompany the grant. These documents have all been sent on. We are proposing to treat 13 acres on North Twin and 15 acres on South Twin May 2008. (See map below)The grants are reviewed and ranked in Madison by mid-September, so everyone, please keep your fingers crossed. Tim has put an incredible amount of time and thought into this grant application to maximize the points for our project. We think we have an excellent plan. Let's hope that the people at the state level concur.

Meanwhile, your fellow members are hard at work volunteering at the boat landings in the Clean Boats/Clean Waters program. It's quite edifying to have people willing to roust out of bed at 4:30 AM to be at the boat landings to monitor the fishermen at the tournaments by 5 AM. Keep up the good work.

You can view this map at our web site nstwinlakes.com



New Aquatic Invasive alert for lakes in Vilas County — Hydrilla.

This plant has been present in lakes in southern Wisconsin for some time, and seems to be moving slowly northward. At first it was thought that this invasive could not withstand the cold winters, but we need to be aware of this new invasive, nonetheless. It looks a great deal like the native plant Elodea. I know Elodea is plentiful on Big Sand Lake. I've not seen it on North or South Twin...yet. Here's a picture. Check with the DNR for better looks.



Fishing Report

This fishing report will be divided into two parts, 1) a current brief fishing report and 2) the future possibilities for walleye regulations on this chain.

Fishing for all species this summer has been pretty slow with a couple of exceptions. **Bluegills** remained very consistent on S. Twin and some larger fish were being caught in a couple different areas in N. Twin. Two fish species that continue to grow in numbers and size seem to be **Northerns** and **Crappies**. **Perch** did not provide the action that they did a year ago, but at times they were there in size and numbers. If you put in some time you will get a nice catch with crab tails still being your best bait.

Walleye were a particularly difficult fish to catch this summer. They remained suspended and scattered nearly the whole season. They are now starting to become more active in their fall pattern relating to rocks and drop offs.

Musky, too, were pretty slow this summer but have become very active as of late. As the water continues to cool down and the weeds continue to die off, look from shallow to 15 feet of water on drop offs. These factors will also contribute to the day time bite being best.

Okay there are two possibilities for **future walleye regulations**. Both these options come with a five fish bag limit, but due to tribal harvest it will realistically be a 2 fish bag limit.

Option 1 is no minimum length, but only one fish over 14 inches may be kept. Expectations for this option would be a slightly greater growth rate with a greater number of fish being able to be harvested.

Option 2 is no minimum length limit, but fish from 14 to 18 inches must be released and only one fish over 18 may be kept. Expectations for this option would be greater numbers of larger fish.

Both of these options have drawbacks. The biggest of which being anglers would have to release fish that they would normally keep. This is particularly true of the slot limit. Having more large fish can also have an effect on the pan fish populations.

Keeping this in mind you have to ask yourself what you want to see, more eaters or more trophies? Whatever decision is made we will have to live with it for at least 10 years as the DNR will monitor the progress, but will not do another survey for at least that long. Think about it and talk with a member of the board when you can as all of our opinions can help to influence the decision on this issue.

Have fun fishing.
Marti and Jen Primich
North Twin Lodge

fyi

(For Your Information on Lake Planning)

The pictures on the Exotic Species Signs will be replaced when Mike Hoffman and his crew redo the frame work for the signs. I have the pictures.

Water testing was done in July with only six members testing their well water. Cost was \$40.00. All tested ok. The Lake Association is paying mileage costs to transport to Stevens Point.

Rake throwing for EWM probably will not be done while Tim Hoyman is surveying the locations. It is really spreading on South TWIN and parts of North Twin. This is mainly due to not being able to treat annually because of funds available. We have been unable to get any grants to treat — just to locate beds of AIS.

Spiny Water Fleas are in Stormy Lake as reported in the Vilas County News Review — front page. Stormy Lake is in Conover, just west of Hwy 45. Too close for comfort. AIS seems to be Winning the War.

Don Zirbel Lake Planning Committee Chair

Creel Survey Information Marty Keipke, DNR, as promised at the Annual Meeting.

There has been a creel survey clerk on the lake since opening day and he will be there through March 2, 2008. His shift during the open water season is either from 6 AM to 2 PM or 2 PM to 10 PM, 40 hours a week. He works every weekend and every holiday. During the winter his shift is either from 7 AM to 5 PM or 9 AM to 7 PM, 40 hours per week. Again, every weekend and every holiday. His job is to ask anglers who are DONE fishing for the day the following questions: How long were you on the water today? What time did you start? What species of fish were you targeting? What did you actually catch? What did you keep? What did you throw back? And if the angler has kept some fish the clerk would like to measure a few of them, if possible, in order to get an average size of the fish if they are panfish. If they are gamefish, he would like to measure them more closely as well as check them for the finclips that were done during spring netting. He's looking for those clips. Twice per shift, at computer generated times, the clerk counts the anglers on the water. Not the boats -- the anglers. From the information he gathers over the course of the year we can get a pretty good idea as to the amount of fishing pressure on the lake and what sort of pressure each species is getting. We can get a catch rate and a harvest rate of each species. And from the amount of finclipped fish harvested we can get an exploitation rate of those gamefish. We will also get the size structure of each of the species harvested. The creel survey is an important tool in the management of the lake. The cooperation of the anglers is greatly appreciated.

Tribal Spearing figures on North Twin

"1996 netting of northerns yielded 4; 2007 netting of northerns yielded 29...not a lot but obviously more than in 1996. If I were to use the Present/Common/Abundant categories, I would say northerns are "Present". It would be tough to get you the printout of the spearing on you lakes but I can do it this way" 2006 spearing on North and South Twin: inch --- number of walleye speared:

10" --4;	11" --63;	12" --214;	13" --209;
14" --148;	15" --70;	16" -- 33;	17" --6;
18" --5;	19" --5;	20" --2;	21" -- 2;
24" --1;	25" -- 2;		

Hope this helps. Had a good time at the meeting. I hope I was able to put a little light on the subject and was able to answer the group's questions."

Marty

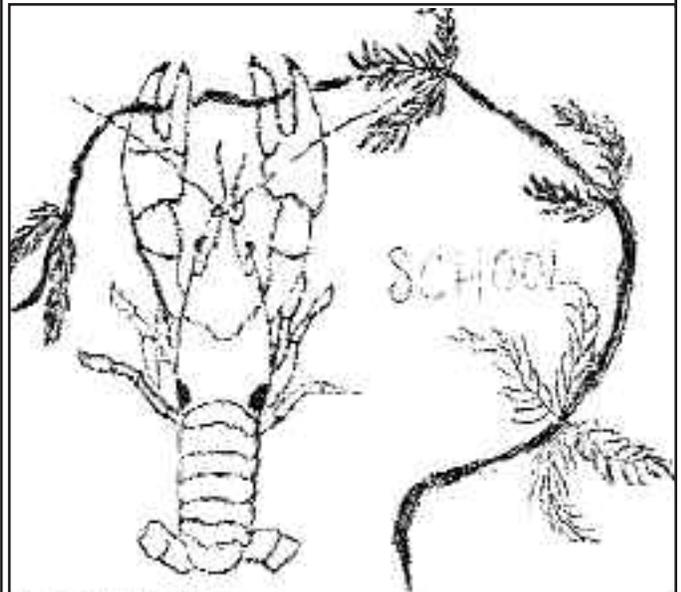
TWIN TALES

by Ginny Parker and as suggested by Mike Hoffman and buddies in one of their more creative moments!

Mike Hoffman and a bunch of his buddies were sitting around a big table the other night just tossing around ideas for other fund raising plans for the Lake Association. This group has done a wonderful job of fund raising to date with the Crayfish Boil at the Taste of Conover event over July 4th, the tee shirt and sweatshirt sales, and the Crayfish appetizers and jambalaya served at the Fish Boil. But this night, the creative juices were really flowing, along with the beverages, I suspect, because, well, just give a listen to this "far-out" idea!)

Here's the latest!!!! Mike and Mary are setting up a special school! You've heard about a school of fish, well — here's the thing! Mike is going to take those Rusty's that Tom Goehle has been dumping into his big trap in front of his place and he's going to set up a school to train those Rusty's to eat Eurasian Water Milfoil.

Once he gets the Rusty's appetites trained to desire the EWM, he will place these "learned crays" back out on the Eurasian milfoil beds. Then we'll need some monitors to check on their progress.



Sketch by Myra Rice

Meanwhile, Mary will be setting up a marketing plan promoting the Eurasian Water Milfoil filled "Rusty's" as an aphrodisiac to the those certain people enamored with aphrodisiacs. Everybody knows that they so are crazy about their aphrodisiacs that we can charge a goodly amount of money for these special EWM eating Crayfish. As soon as the EWM is gone, we will be able to rid the lake of the Rusty Crayfish through this very innovative plan and raise all sorts of money for the Lake. Perhaps, we could sell our idea to all the other lakes in Vilas County and raise money that way, too.

Now, don't that beat all?

Of course this article is all in jest, but it's refreshing to have a little humor now and again, don't you agree? IF ONLY GETTING RID OF OUR INVASIVES WERE SO SIMPLE AND EASY!

P.S. Chris Mijal has all sorts of ideas to market EWM.— wine, filament in light bulb, (use flashlight), cigarette, meds.



AMEN CONTRIBUTORS...2007

This list acknowledges with gratitude all contributions to the AMEN Fund in 2007

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THANK YOU AND AMEN.
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes for Nstlra's 13th Annual Meeting & Picnic held at Phelps School Commons on Sunday June 24, 2007 can be viewed on our website: nstwinlakes.com

Treasurer's Report Annual Meeting

June 23, 2007

Beginning Balance 6/1/06		\$4211.79
Income: Memberships	\$8135.00	
Fish Boil	\$2499.00	
Total Income	\$10654.00	
Exp.: Newsletters	\$1549.01	
Postage & Box	797.24	
Assoc. Dues	985.00	
Membership Mlg	580.74	
Gov't Reports	20.00	
Lake Dist. Business	1074.87	
Assoc. Insurance	428.00	
Annual Mtg. Exp.	60.92	
Water Analysis Exp.	118.36	
New Buoys	2358.61	
WAL Convention	647.70	
Misc.	237.22	
AMEN Exp.	775.96	
Total Expenses	9633.63	

Ending Balance 6/23/07
\$5232.16

Amen Fund

Fund Balance 6/1/06

Donations		\$29880.00
Interest	78.44	
Annual Mtg. Raffle	96.00	
Sept. Fish Tourn. Raffle	83.00	
Planning Grant Return	2858.44	
Check Book	775.96	
Total Income	\$33771.84	

Expenses:		
Transfer to CD	\$20144.96	
'07 Treatment Permit	565.00	
'07 Treatment	9195.00	
'07 Treatment Newspaper Art.	43.60	
CB/CW Expenses	116.67	
Exotic Species Pics	50.69	
Total Expenses	\$30115.92	

Fund Balance 6/23/07
\$20025.46

Memo: Amen Fund CD 6 mo. \$23000.00 CD renewed 4/5/07 @\$23517.42

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more info at www.nstwinlakes.com

Calendar of Events 2007- 08

Board of Directors meetings -- every third Thursday

September 20, 2007

May 15, 2008

June 19, 2008

July 17, 2008

August 21, 2008

Midwest Classic Musky Tournament

October 6 & 7, 2007

CB/CW crew to Monitor boat landings

Annual Meeting

June 29, 2008

Conover Community Center

Fish Boil

August 6th, 2008

Sundown Tavern

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