INEVITABLE OR PREVENTABLE?

By the numbers:

11,842 - the number of lakes in Minnesota
247 - the number of Minnesota lakes with Eurasian Water Milfoil
79 - the number of Minnesota lakes with Zebra Mussels

There is a mindset among all of us that believes it’s just a matter of time before Rice Lake gets Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) or Zebra Mussels (ZM). We’re just waiting our turn to be added to the list. Really, it’s all around us. It’ll be here eventually. Then what…

Green Lake in Spicer found it in 2000. Since then, they’ve spent more than $100,000 to control it. These are some of the impacts of EWM based on research published by the Minnesota Sea Grant:

- Increased boat repair and maintenance costs (One boat owner in Vermont spent $800 repairing his boat when the motor intake became clogged with milfoil)
- Declined native plant diversity (Madsen, et al. 1991; Trebitz 1993)
- Depressed real estate values (Bates et. al 1985)
- Inhibited water circulation (Smart and Doyle 1995)
- Reduced levels of dissolved oxygen, enables nutrients to accumulate, possibly creating unfavorable conditions for macroinvertebrates and fish (Lillie & Budd 1992)
- Reduced density of invertebrates (fish food) (Keast 1984)
- Three to four times fewer fish versus native plant beds (Keast 1984)
- Caused significant increases in permanent pool mosquitoes (Bates et. al 1985)

Property owners of Rice Lake need to evaluate whether we’re looking at this problem of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) through the right lens. It isn’t like Americans to give up, to say ‘oh well’, not when the consequences are so great and the costs so high. Is it inevitable or can we do something to actually prevent AIS from invading Rice Lake?

That question was presented to a group of Koronis Lake Association board members who took it to the next level. They investigated what other Minnesota lake associations are doing and said yes, it is preventable and we’re going to pursue that course. They contacted lake associations from Rice, Pirz and Grove lakes and the North Fork Crow River Watershed District to discuss the issues and collaborate on a plan. Discussions also involved the City of Paynesville and Paynesville Township.

The current approach to protecting our lakes does not work. More and more lakes are being infested. Unless or until we shift from a strategy of slowing the spread to one of stopping the spread, the system will remain leaky at best. As a pragmatic matter, a goal of slowing is not measurable, so almost any plan will work (or fail).

The Minnesota DNR approach has been containment, management and public education but not prevention. These are the assumptions the DNR lists that guide their plan for management of AIS:

The spread of AIS can be prevented if boaters perform the AIS activities required in Minnesota State Statutes. It is the personal responsibility of boat operators to properly complete the AIS actions required in state statute. Boaters gain access to and leave public waters through three primary means:

- Public access—free public boat launches and associated parking areas.
- Commercial access—resorts, campgrounds, marinas, for-fee private accesses and municipal docks provided by lakeshore municipalities for rent by city residents.
- Riparian residences—waterfront property owners and homeowner associations with riparian access.

The big if requires depending on boaters to comply (Continued on page 3)
Saying goodbye to friends

Connie (Cruikshank) Ladwig said goodbye to Rice Lake for the last time November 5, 2012. Connie and Ed Ladwig were married for 26 years. They accomplished their dream of building their retirement home on Rice Lake in 2008. She fought a courageous battle with ALS for 5 years and woke up each morning with a smile, looking out over Rice Lake. Our sympathies and warmest wishes to Ed and their dog, Guiness, as their lives move forward.

Lyle Hanks left the world behind November 2, 2012. In our neighborhood, he is best known for his gardening. In the earlier part of his life he was a teacher, coach and principal in St. Louis Park schools. Lyle was a public servant and served on their City Council and was mayor for 13 years. His wife Laura is the chief gardener now along with their sons and daughters-in-law. We offer our sympathies to Laura and their family and friends. Lyle will be missed in our neighborhood.

Mary Jane Richmond died this winter unexpectedly from influenza. She summered on Rice Lake with her husband Ed. Jane was a remarkable person. She was a Lieutenant in the Air Force Nursing Corps during the Korean War and taught at DePaul School of Nursing. Her family shares that Jane danced the longest on the dance floor, caught the most fish, told the best jokes and pulled the best pranks. She could be found playing basketball, cheering the Twins or cruising in her red convertible. Jane will be missed by her family and friends. Our sincere sympathies to each of them.

As of this writing, ice still graces the lake, but we expect it to be gone by next weekend, May 5th is the prediction. The robins are finally able to peck for worms without hurting their beaks.

Each spring, my husband Tim and I have a contest for seeing the first robin. It was an unusual year because I won. I decided to hedge my bets and went on a website that charted where the robins were first seen in Minnesota. I don’t think it really helped but my goal was to put Tim a little on edge about always winning.

I saw my first loon this morning on the channel between Rice and Koronis. The pelicans are back and circling in concert with one another. I’ve always been amazed how when birds are flying in flocks, they never bump into one another. If only that quality could translate into cars. Hmm. Food for thought.

How does all this crud collect on our lawns under the snow? We mowed and raked late into the fall and still, it’s there to do all over again each spring.

Our thoughts turn to getting the boat and docks in. It’s late this year but there’s still some summer left. We’ll be calling Larry at Rice Lake Storage as soon as the ice is out. Can’t wait to get out there for the inaugural scotch cruise.

Mother’s Day and opener collide again this year. We’re used to that. It is what it is. My mom is 88 this year and I’ll be spending time with her that day. Tim will be up north at his cabin with da guys talking smart and catching no fish whatsoever. We buy our fish.

The gardeners are getting itchy. The soil is finally thawing. You guys are waaaay behind. But it all works out. Just ask the farmers. It is what it is.

School’s out soon but it can’t be too soon. As soon as this weather warms, the kids have ants in their pants.

Tent caterpillars will be late this spring, as with everything else. Keep a watchful eye on the treetops as leaves emerge and call your neighborhood captains if you notice decimation of new growth.

Be safe out there on the lake this summer. Watch out for skiers and tubers, kids who’ve fallen off their skis, waiting to be picked back up by a boat. If you see someone with a motor tipped up, they’re in trouble and can use a lift. Stop by and offer what’s needed.

If we see a crop of curly leaf pondweed again this year, it will die off by mid-July. Be sure to rake in the dead growth as it drifts in to shore. It helps to decrease the phosphorus in the lake if you get it out rather than leave it to decompose in the lake.

Have a great summer. Use your sunscreen. Welcome back to the lake.
INEVITABLE OR PREVENTABLE?

(Continued from page 1) with the statutes governing AIS. Statistics support that noncompliance is responsible for the spread of AIS. That behavior isn’t expected to change, despite education. The conclusion we draw from this experience is that prevention is the path that will change the transmission of AIS from one lake to another.

Recommendations from the collaborative have moved from discussion to action.

1. Lake associations from the AIS Group have formed a Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA) for Stearns County. COLA’s have greater influence in policy decisions about our lakes than individual lake associations. The Stearns County COLA has joined the Minnesota COLA Collaborative. Seven lake associations are now members of the Stearns County COLA. Many others have expressed interest. IRS forms for a nonprofit status have been submitted. The goals of the COLA are advocacy, research and stopping the spread of AIS.

2. The watershed district received a grant from the MN DNR to fund hiring and training of Level 1 watercraft inspectors who will perform AIS inspections. Inspections are planned to begin on fishing opener, May 11th and continue into September at public accesses on Lake Koronis, Rice Lake and Grove Lake.

3. Paul Bugbee, KLA, spoke with the University of Minnesota asking them to pursue research to give us a better understanding of the recreational and economic impacts of AIS. He also testified before the Minnesota’s Legacy Funding Committee of the House of Representatives, to encourage them to open their funding to local units of government. Currently, no legacy funds are designated to fight AIS.

Why we live and summer on the lake

A few pics borrowed from other lake association websites. That’s a northern - nice catch. A little ice fishing/sun tanning etc. Winter in late April above and an eagle’s catch. Nice.
Property owners on the lake sometimes ask or wonder what Rice Lake Association spends their time and money doing for them.

This is a reminder that the job of lake associations is to work with agencies whose job it is to manage waters, to hold them accountable in doing their jobs in a way that benefits our lakes. Sometimes we prod them to do what they’re supposed to do and more often, we work alongside them to help initiate projects designed to protect our lakes. It usually involves a lot of meetings.

And then sometimes, as we did this past winter, we start our own projects like the AIS Group. That initiative has evolved into forming the Stearns County Coalition of Lake Associations.

A lot of dedicated people with a passion for the lakes met many times and put in countless hours outside those meetings to make some meaningful changes that we think will result in doing a better job of protecting our waters from invasives.

Thank you to all those who continue to work on the AIS Group and Stearns County COLA.

### Rice Lake Association Financial Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Itemization of Income and Expenses 1-1-12 to 12-31-12</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Checkbook balance as of January 1, 212 $447.10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Minnesota Credit Union CD ($1.00 interest 12/31/12) $1,007.88</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank of the West Savings Account ($1.30 interest 12/31/12) $1,523.24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Income:**

- Reimbursement for Lake Management Plan Attendance $800.00
- 126 paid Memberships for 2012 $4,840.00
- State Bank of Eden Valley $100.00
- Central Minnesota Credit Union $100.00
- Farmers & Merchants Bank $100.00
- Bank of the West $100.00
- Total Income & Previous Balance $9,018.22

**Expenses:**

- Administrative Cost: Newsletter, Postage, Boat Check, Meetings, etc. $1023.26
- Shore Authority Training $50.00
- J. Hanson - Safety Markers $31.14
- Post Office/P.O. Box $96.00
- 4th of July Boat Parade Prizes $50.00
- Pope Soil & water Conserv. CRP $375.00
- Ann. Mtg. at Camp Ojibway $1,000.00
- 4 Prizes at the Annual Meeting $400.00
- Cheryl Schmidt/Labels $12.81
- D. Henry/Printing Cards, Maps, Newsletter $266.00
- M. Taylor/Postage for Cards & Newsletter $211.50
- Stearns Co COLA $250.00
- RLA portion of Paynesville Stormwater Study $700.00
- Think Creative/Domain Registration $35.00 $4,500.71

**Balance on 12-31-12 (incl. CD, Savings & Checkbook) $4,517.51**

**Farmers & Merchants Checkbook Balance as of 12-31-2012 $1,986.39**

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Wieseler
**BOARD REVIEW**

**April 13, 2013**

The RLA, KLA Shoreline Restoration grant proposal from the Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) was denied. Several Rice Lake property owners responded to RLA’s survey in 2012 expressing an interest in accessing funding support from the grant to make shoreline changes.

Marge Taylor will contact Jim Ellickson, who conducted the survey, to obtain the names of Rice Lake property owners interested in shoreline restoration. The board will want those names going forward. The hope is that SWCD will write another grant proposal supporting shoreline restoration.

President Susan Anderson has now been trained to manage RLA’s website. She will add a membership page listing 2012 and 2013 members, making it easier for lake residents to know if they’ve paid for the current membership year.

The board discussed the option of adding PayPal to the website enabling easy payment of annual dues. Treasurer, Mary Jo Wieseler will investigate steps involved.

Anderson will also add a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) page explaining the 2012 study conducted to identify specific contributing sources of phosphorus in Rice Lake.

Traditional RLA sponsored events, the Fishing Opener Boat Check and the 4th of July Boat Parade have lost their organizers due to those board members leaving the board in 2012. John Hanson served as organizer to the boat checks and Brent Holmberg organized the boat parade each year. If these events are to continue, the board needs to identify someone to head them.

RLA has collaborated with Koronis, Pirz and Grove Lake Associations to form a Coalition of Lake Organizations (COLA) in Stearns County. Goals of the organization are:

- Advocacy
- Research
- Stopping the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

Board meeting dates for 2013 are posted on the website.

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**What to Ask When You’re Asked**

RLA is always interested in attracting dedicated members to serve on the Board of Directors. We recognize that a commitment like this must be a good fit for you. Some of the following questions might help you think through the possibilities for you and for serving with RLA.

1. **Do the mission and goals fit yours?**
   This match is critical to both the success of RLA and to your personal and professional goals.

2. **What can you contribute?**
   Make sure your skills and interests align with what the board needs. Board members need to know their time and talents are being invested in the best way possible. If you can see your efforts will change lives in positive ways, it will draw you in and keep you engaged.

3. **What is the financial situation?**
   If the organization is in dire straits, you’d want to know before agreeing to serve. Poor finances may not be a deal breaker especially if you enjoy rescuing and rebuilding. But you should know the situation before you join.

4. **Do you have enough time to commit?**
   Make sure you’re able to commit the amount of time expected and still manage other priorities in your life. Some of the best board members are the busiest people.

5. **What is the term commitment?**
   You’ll want to know how long a board term lasts and whether you can serve multiple terms. Will you be expected to recruit your replacement or replacements for other board members?

6. **How will I know if we move the needle?**
   How does RLA gauge outcomes to measure their impact? Unless an organization is just starting out, an effective organization should have a strategic plan that proves they’ve given some thought to their direction and how they plan to achieve their goals.

7. **What is the committee structure?**
   Board members may be expected to serve on one or more committees. It’s important to know the committee structure, purpose, membership and meeting frequency.

8. **Can “I try before I buy?”**
   Attending a meeting or two can give you a feel for the personalities on the board and whether they are a well-functioning team. Meetings should be interesting and productive. At least half of each session should be devoted to planning for the future.

9. **Is there a continuity of leadership?**
   Stable leadership frees the board to do other things.

A call or email to any board member can provide answers to these questions and assist you in your thought process about serving on the board. When people are ready to serve, it’s a rewarding and growth-producing experience.

RLA’s board guidelines accommodate 6-9 members. We are always interested in listening to those who want to serve.

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*Article adapted from IQ, 4th quarter 2012, quarterly publication of the Initiative Foundation.*
By Dallas Karl

T was the night before Christmas and all through the house, not a sound was made. But when I look out I am confused, there are 2 feet of snow and fishermen are still on the ice. I am supposed to be waiting for the kids to help put out the dock. I am waiting for the DNR to put out their nets and trap walleyes for their eggs.

I am waiting to fill my garden and plant the cold weather seeds. Me thinks I will wait a long time. Since I have been writing it down we have had five late ice-outs on Rice Lake.

- April 21 was 1997, 2001, and 2007
- April 23 was 1996 and 2008

Our chatter down at Fisher's kind of agrees, that this may be the first May ice out in recent times. Last year ice out was March 19th, and in 2005, it was March 19th and 2010 March 31st. Go figure.

I did fairly well fishing this winter. However this is the first Christmas the granddaughters and I were skunked on the Crappie bed. They did start to bite later on. Before we moved to Needlepoint, I did get a nice walleye (4lb 6 oz), I was trying to land it from a hole in the corner, son John was trying to grab the fish and granddaughter Alexa was on his back trying to see. It was quite the sight.

We did get some very nice crappie, up to 12 inches at Needlepoint. Not a tremendous bite, but enough to keep you satisfied. We found Crappie in different places. Hot spots the year before were a bust. It could be the low water level changed things.

What was different was the number of northern caught. They cruised in at always about 12 feet. I lost at least seven lures but landed only two fish. What was strange, all of the ones I saw caught, were around 5 lbs. My neighbor on the ice had three in a sack outside his door and spent the night in his house. In the morning he had one and half fish. When I removed my house we found the remains of his other fish. We figure it had to be a mink; we do see them around the lake.

There is a lot of talk about invasives in lake and rivers. A lot of talk is good. People tend to point at boats spreading them from lake to lake, which is usually the case. However there is another way to consider. When we lived in Apple Valley, there was a large gravel pit that was closed while we were there. It was allowed to fill with water and later was divided in residential lots. This pit had a fence around it. And never had boats on it. The only visitors it had, were shore birds and a massive bunch of northern mallards in the fall. I always knew when the northern flight started due to this occurrence. They fed in the big cornfields to the east and rafted at night in the area lakes and the backwaters of the Mississippi River. Before they divided the pit into lots, they found it was choked with Eurasian milfoil. Both it and Crystal Lake had it, and both experienced the northern flight of ducks.

I friend showed me the references for the resorts from our lakes, from the book The Early Resorts of Minnesota. In 1915 it referenced Rice Lake Resort owned by John Schaefer. In 1920 it listed Brossard's Resort that accommodates 25 at $18.00 a week, and Schaefer resort which accommodated 35 at $15.00 a week. By 1930 nine resorts were on the lake.

- Bass Resort (the old Brossard's Resort, George Brossard), with 4 cottages, 18 boats
- Birch Point (Mrs. Wm. Steil) 2 cottages 12 boats
- Emil's Place (Emil Fodstad) 2 cabins 10 boats. This is the current Fishers Resort. Emil came to Fishers some years back before he died, and gave Kevin some history about the place.
- Ketcham Resort, 3 cottages, 7 boats (they also sold garden and dairy products)
- Lake View Resort (Ernest Bennett) 4 cottages 18 boats
- Rice Lake Resort (Merrill Bennett and Mrs. Mary Bennett) 4 cottages 14 boats. The author believes this was the John Schaefer resort in 1925. We have been told this was the old Springs Resort, not the Rice Lake Resort that closed some year’s back, but we are not sure. Rice Lake Resort (in the 1930’s) had two cabins like the Birch Point resort in the 30’s and therefore may be the same. Floyd Lang, I believe built the 3rd and 4th cabins when he owned it, and it was known as Floyd and Birdie’s.
- Sandy Beach Resort (D.E. Brossard) 7 cottages and 13 boats. They advertised electric lights and served meals.
- Schmidt’s (Bill Schmidt) 6 boats and a guide.
- Springs Resort (A. S. Albright, and Charles N. Graming) 6 cottages and 20 boats. You can see the problem, two Springs Resorts if the Schaefer resort was the Springs resort.

By 1940, one of the above resorts became Albrechts Resort, 2 cabins (sounds like Birch Point, Wm. Albrecht) He was a grain dealer in Eden Valley. I have a lake map (with no date) from about the time we bought up here in 1981. The resorts listed starting at the North Fork Crow River were Albright's Resort, Bennett’s Resort (the new public access) Spring Resort, Sandy Beach Resort, Brossard’s Resort, Fishers Resort and Rice Lake Resort. The map shows Albright Resort by the river, but A.S. Albright owned the Springs resort in the 30’s. Confusing? I have a local history sleuth working on this. Jim Haag, is related to most of these people.

I noted in the St. Cloud paper that the Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District is looking for landowners interested in restoring wetlands. If you know a landowner along the North Fork Crow, you may want to tell him about this. This is what we need (water holding areas) to clean up our lake and reduce the river flow after big rains.

Do not confuse this with the North Fork Crow River Watershed District; that is a special assessment on your property tax statement. We wish they would also get involved in these projects.

I would like to thank the Rice Lake Social Club for the great Birthday party. Maybe, since it is still winter we can squeeze in one more get-together.