



## Boats impact the littoral zone

Now that it's June, the true boating season has begun. While you're out enjoying the lake this summer, there are a few concepts that will help you become a more informed boater and lake steward.

We'll start with a definition: the littoral zone. The littoral zone is the area of the lake that is less than 15 feet deep and where sunlight can reach the bottom. The littoral zone is usually where you will find the majority of aquatic plants since they need sunlight to grow. The littoral zone is also important habitat for fish, shorebirds and aquatic invertebrates because the plants give them refuge from predators and there is abundant food available.

Generally, the greater the percent littoral area, the more aquatic plants are in the lake. We tend to think of aquatic plants as bad for recreation, but they are very important to organisms living in the lake.

The littoral zone and the plants and organisms living there are sensitive to boat use. When a boat speeds through the littoral zone, the propeller can cause disturbance. First, it stirs up the lake sediment, re-suspending nutrients (phosphorus) into the water. These nutrients can then feed algae and cause an algal bloom. This stirring can also decrease the water clarity because of additional particles suspended in the water col-

umn. Secondly, props can cause direct damage to aquatic plants, cutting them up. Thirdly, props and wave action can disturb sensitive habitat for spawning fish and other organisms.

What you can do is make sure you drive slowly through littoral areas or avoid them entirely. Imposing a speed limit doesn't always help because studies show that "near plane" speed, 6-8 mph, has maximum potential for stirring up lake sediments.

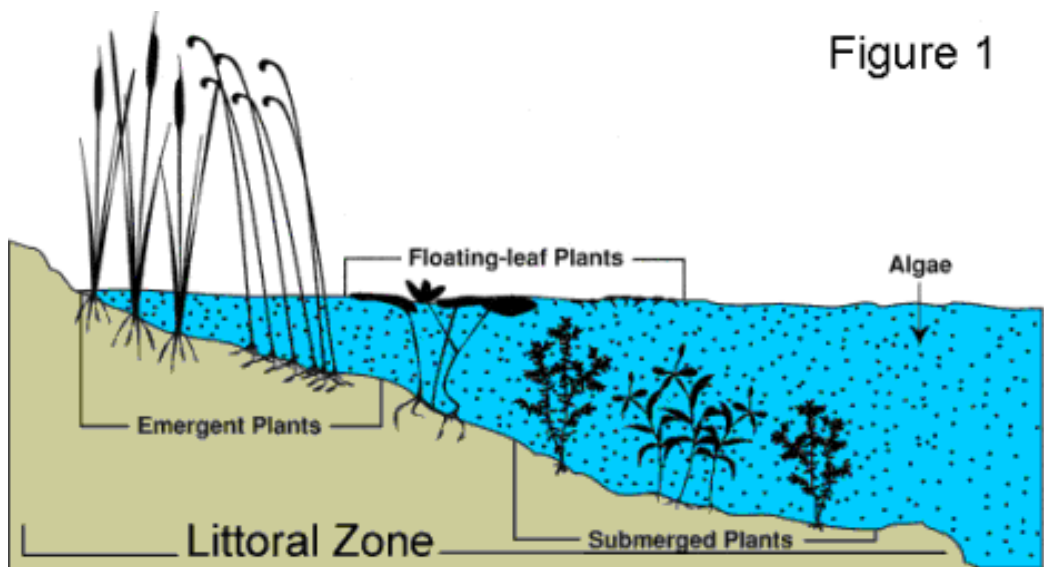


Figure 1

### Inside this issue:

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### Schedule of Events

**Annual Meeting: Saturday June 21st  
YAH Club 10am**

**Picnic: Saturday July 26th St Ed's  
11:30am  
(\$5/person donation to defray cost  
gladly accepted)**



# Time On the Water

Mary Jane Black

Sept 9, 2007, 37 degrees. Rain with some faint snow flakes.

Sept. 16, Saw a hummer at the feeder (turned out to be the last one this fall).

Sept. 17-18, Up at Fortune Bay on Vermillion to golf the Wilderness. Over-cast but mild temp, peak color of reds, great golf and scenery.

Sept 21, Beautiful color, Basswood leaves falling, saw Sandhill cranes east of Pine River (so. of 84)

Sept. 30, Partly cloudy, windy, pine needles raining down, Ash and Basswood leaves almost gone, bagging some leaves for compost & septic.

Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>. 6 inches of rain in Sept., lake level at 11.3 (as Bruce types this on 5/6/08 The lake level is 12.4)

Oct. 9 & 10, Peak of yellow and golds, bagging more leaves for compost.

Oct 10-12, Overcast 47 deg. Very calm, 53 deg. water temp, no muskies.

Oct. 28, First time to scrape the windows on the car. 32 deg. By the lake but 28 deg. Going to town. Full moon at its closest distance to the earth in its elliptical orbit.

Nov. 3, Deer opener, light So. Wind, mild temps high near 50 deg. No deer seen until noon- got a spike buck for the freezer-Bruce skunked again.

Nov. 4, Again mild very light wind, several doe seen-one at 20 yds looking at me. Stayed absolutely still and it finally slowly moved off. Also used the pish, sound and got a red breasted nuthatch on the tree at a face off, it had inquisitive eyes. Evening light rain, didn't go on stand (Bruce skunked again)

Nov. 9, Woke up to 30 deg. And snow cover-less than 1/2 inch but enough to clean off the deck and wooden steps.

Nov.10, 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of deer hunting-weather miserable, mid 30's and light Steady rain-stir crazy in house but too awful outside. Grass still green in the yard-deer come here to eat and I think to hide in the garage.

Nov. 12, Little Boy resort owners said they saw two wolves while deer hunting.

We'll have to keep our adventuresome Yorkie, Chester on a leash after dark. He thinks he is the hunter-not the hunted.

Nov. 27, Windy cold overnight dusting of snow, minus 3 in am. With narrows frozen over and now wind.

Nov. 29, Zero deg., no wind, main basin of Wabedo still has some open water and steam coming off. Flocks of several doz. Evening Grosbeaks, "The pigs of the sky" on the deck looking for more seeds. Sent Bruce to shed to get the big feeder and they were there fighting over position the minute he hung it on the deck.

Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>. Ice in on Wabedo

Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Zero deg. And 8 inches of snow on the ground, leaving for Fl. In a few hours.

Dec. 22, Back from Fl. , first day of Winter 10 deg. Overcast most of the day but cleared off for a nice sunset. Bruce caught one walleye yesterday but nothing this afternoon-cold on the ice (solid three inches to fish on)

Dec. 27-No wind in the 20's about one foot of snow on the ground. Took a walk with the snowshoes through the neighbors property and back to a stand of Red Pines. All the trees are snow-covered and everything is clear and beautiful. Haven't had a snowy Dec. like this since the 1950's. Happy to have a chance to enjoy it-tomorrow we head out to the cities and then down to Fl-back in the Spring. A quote from the Mpls. Tribune-" The down snow that began to fall at midday Tuesday was the deepest Christmas Day snowfall since 1950."

April 20<sup>th</sup>, Returned to Wabedo from Florida, Road bed O.K., our biggest concern-getting into our place. Almost no snow-just patches on the north facing slopes. Sunny and 70 - a few mice in the traps. The water turned on fine and the old water heater is still working and the septic (thanks) to early snow cover)

April 21. Listening to KAXE 91.7 fm and all the up north morning shows. No other station matches this public station out of Grand Rapids. Bruce reset

the mail box which had been knocked into another zip code. 1/2 day project. Bleeding hear Rhubarb showing red sprouts above ground while most everything else looks dead and moldy.

April 23, ditches greening up. Deer along the steep ditch banks in groups of 4. Frogs singing and croaking. Ants active and moths out at night. April 25, Friday 2:00 pm. Freezing rain pellets 33 deg. 5:00 pm big flakes, 6:15 all white covered the ground.

April 26, Sat. 32 still snowing , lakes association meeting cancelled. Bruce has shoveled walk and steps several times but at noon I went out to put more seeds (Which doubled in price since we have been gone) for birds and I needed taller boots. 1 pm. Still snowing and about 8 inches on ground. 5 pm tapering off with about 12 inches on the ground.

April 27 Sun 45 deg. Some of the snow has melted and compacted.

April 29, Bruce and George saw a turkey crossing 54 by the Wabedo town hall-Trapper says they are locals and not wild or stocked by the DNR. Too bad. Wall-eyes running under the Wabedo bridge.

May 3 , Loons calling after sundown. Ice still on some of the lake.

May 5<sup>th</sup>. We got the dock and lift in. Still some ice on the lake, but I think you can say this day is ice out day-they won't be fishing on Leech for opener unless there is a miracle warm up.



## Political Action Committee

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This committee provides input on various political issues that face our lakes and surrounding areas. When the committee determines the Association could or should take a position on pending legislation, ordinances, or other political actions, they write a position paper for the Board of Directors to consider. The Board then determines and approves what action to take whether it involves writing a letter, sending an email or other correspondence or action.

Below are some of the issues the Committee has dealt with:

### Docks (2007-2008)

There is a separate page on our website concerning docks and the issues the DNR faces in trying to change or modify these rules on docks. Our Association sent an email to the DNR supporting keeping the current rules without a special general permit allowing platforms.

### Wabedo Bridge (2006-2007)

Our Association was instrumental in requesting Cass County repair the Wabedo Bridge by adding more safety items. Kathy Wagner and Bill Hansen also requested additional No Parking signs which were placed in the bridge area in January, 2008.

### Star Lakes (2007-2008)

We attended meetings held by Sen, Mary Olson concerning her proposed legislation concerning the creation of a Star Lakes designation. See our website for more information.

### Cass County Conservation Development Standards (2007)

We sent correspondence to Cass County with our requested changes to the proposed Conservation Development Ordinance. This ordinance would create a conservation development (similar to a golf course design) process for Cass

County. There are some issues in this ordinance that we would like to see changed. See one of our Committee members for more information.

### DNR Alternative Shoreland Standards (2007)

We sent correspondence to the Governor and head of the DNR supporting state-wide adoption of the current voluntary DNR Alternative Shoreland Standards. These voluntary standards were created for the five county around Cass County and each county can voluntarily pick and choose parts of these standards to adopt. These standards address development rules in shoreland areas.

## Easy Composting

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Mary Jane Black

Save the landfill and make some organic soil by composting all your vegetables kitchen scraps. I just use a plastic grocery bag held in place with two hooks right inside the sink cabinet. It's very convenient to toss the peels and leftovers into the sack while working at the sink. Also eggshells, coffee grounds, fruit and tea bags are all good to add. The bag fills enough in several days so I add it to the compost before it begins to smell.

Use an enclosed container for your outside composting. Don't put any meat, bones or fish in your compost. I found wrapping chicken wire around the bins help keep squirrels from chewing through. I have two bins going-one almost done and another I'm adding to. Use leaves as your main filler and just cover your kitchen scraps in the leaves so you don't get any rotting odor. We have not had a bear rip the bins apart yet. I haven't tried this yet, but shredded paper

waste can also be added to your compost.

Add moisture and turn it once in awhile to help it decompose. Don't add earthworms. Any small bugs come naturally and help breakdown the organic matter. Be patient. It takes about a year for the first nice batch of compost to be ready. Use for your gardens or share with friends.

Check with the local garden stores or nurseries for a compost bin. You can also go online for my favorite, the Earth Machine, at [www.earthmachine.com](http://www.earthmachine.com).

## Water Quality Report

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Mary Jane Black

This year RMB lab of Detroit Lakes analyzed our water samples from Little Boy and Wabedo. Try their web site [www.rmbel.info](http://www.rmbel.info) for easy to find data on our lakes.

**Little Boy** -Dewey Wenzel sampler  
Water clarity - 11.9 ft. average and Chlorophyll-a, and total phosphorus within expected range for a mesotrophic lake (moderately clear water)

**Wabedo NE. Basin** - Bud Anderson  
Water clarity the clearest in 12 years, Averaging 11 ft, normally about 9 feet.

**Wabedo SW Basin** - Mike Plotnik  
Overall clarity best in a few years, clarity average 10.5 feet chlorophyll -a & phosphorus within expected range for a mesotrophic lake.

**Cooper Lake** - Dianne Hipsher  
11.9 foot average within the normal clear range for Cooper Lake.

**We need a volunteer to take once a month secchi disc readings for Rice. Call MJ Black @ 363-2896**

## Minnesota Lakes Trivia

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Have you ever wondered why Minnesota has so many lakes, how these lakes formed, which are the deepest and what are the most common names? If so, then read on!

First of all, only 2% of the earth's surface is covered by freshwater. The Great Lakes (Superior, Huron, Michigan, Ontario and Erie) make up the largest continuous volume of fresh water on earth, with Lake Superior covering the greatest area of any purely freshwater lake.

The Great Lakes and the lakes in Minnesota were formed as glaciers receded during the last ice age. Approximately 15,000 years ago to about 9,000 years ago, glaciers alternately retreated and advanced over the landscape, carving out holes and leaving behind ice chunks. As these ice chunks melted in the holes left behind, lakes were formed. Lakes formed in this way are called kettle lakes.

The Red River Valley and part of southern Canada was covered by an enormous glacial lake from 12,000 to 9,000 years ago named Lake Agassiz. Lake Winnipeg and Lake of the Woods are remnants of Lake Agassiz. As this lake drained into the Minnesota River and the Great Lakes, it left behind flat land and fertile sediment. That is why the Red River Valley and the Minnesota River Valley are so productive for farming.

There are only four counties in Minnesota with no natural lakes: Mower, Olmsted, Pipestone, and Rock. Otter Tail County has 1,048 lakes, which is the most lakes of any county in the United States. We always say the Minnesota is the land of 10,000 lakes; however, there are actually 11,842 lakes in Minnesota that are larger than 10 acres!

The largest lake in Minnesota is Red Lake, which includes both the upper and

lower portions. Second in line is Mille Lacs and third is Leech Lake. The lake with the most shoreline is Lake Vermilion at 290 miles.

The deepest lake that borders Minnesota is Lake Superior, which reaches a maximum depth of 1,290 feet. The deepest inland natural lake is Lake Saganaga in Cook County (240 feet deep). The deepest lakes in this area are Six, which reaches 140 feet and Otter Tail, which reaches 120 feet.

With all these lakes, it takes quite a lot of names to cover them all. There are a few names that were used abundantly. Naturally, these are names that describe the shape or the nature of the lake. There are 115 lakes in Minnesota that contain the word "Long". Coming in second is "Mud", which is used 92 times. Third most used is "Rice", covering 78 lakes.

## What do Muskies Eat?

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Feeding studies have shown that other fish make up 95-98% of the muskies diet, although at times they will also eat insects, crayfish, small mammals, and waterfowl. They are a natural predator, and like all predators, are opportunists. Studies have shown that even when they're abundant, other game fish make up a very small percentage of the muskies diet.

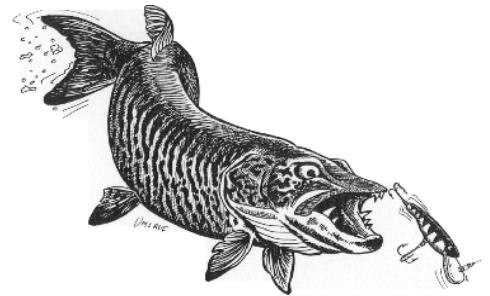
Fishermen have reported muskies attacking bass and walleye as they were being reeled in. This may have given the impression that muskies are significant predators of other game fish, when in

fact; the Muskie was simply reacting naturally to the struggling fish due to their predatory instincts.

Muskies generally take advantage of the most abundant prey species available that are of sufficient size for them to eat. Given the opportunity to choose, Muskie prefer soft-finned, high protein based fish such as suckers, tullibee, ciscoes, bullheads, carp, and minnows. In fact, the food sources muskies prefer most are usually fish species that most people would rather not have in their lake.

The truth is that even though it's been

proven that muskies do have a preferred food source; they are opportunistic predators, and occasionally consume other game fish. The amount of other game fish eaten by muskies is minimal compared to the amount of game fish such as walleye that are harvested by anglers.



## Sustainability Committee

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We're working on two projects at present. The first is to provide lakeshore owners with developable properties alternatives. The Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation is supporting our committee by developing educational materials which in combination with publications and information from the DNR and many other conservation/environmental organizations will be provided to property owners. These educational materials will describe options such as conservation

easements and other options that can help owners retain their property and to maintain its integrity. We hope to have this materials packet ready for dissemination by early summer. LLAWF will generously help with expenses. Secondly, we will be undertaking an effort to provide lakeshore owners on all four lakes with shorelines identified as sensitive educational information encouraging the preservation and maintenance of these areas. This project dovetails with

the ongoing evaluation of Wabedo and Little Boy by the DNR leading toward an intralake zoning scheme as opposed to the current one classification designation. Since sustainability is such an encompassing topic we welcome your input.

Mike Humrickhouse  
Chairman Sustainability Committee  
218-829-1106

# Fisheries Update

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Ron Stokesbary-

The fishery committee met with Harlan Fierstine of the DNR in February to review plans for our four lakes. Harlan gave us copies of the fisheries management plan for each lake. These plans are posted on our website.

Harlan indicated the Inguadona Lake Association has requested limit changes for panfish and, if passed, he would implement the changes on Rice Lake as well since Inguadona and Rice are "connecting waters".

We emailed Harlan with concerns about the walleye fishery on Little Boy. 66% of the walleyes caught in the 2006 netting were from one year class (which was a stocked year) and other factors were trending downward (CPUE, PSD, RSD). Harlan responded with a new stocking program for Little Boy which includes "contingency stocking" of fingerlings in the fall if electroshock counts are below a certain level. Please see our website for full information on this new stocking pro-

gram.

Both Wabedo and Little Boy will have gill netting performed next year (2009). At that time we should be better able to determine if the fingerling stocking program implemented in 2006 on Wabedo is working.

# Exceptional Members

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## Contributing, Sustaining, and Benefactor Members

In each newsletter we will try to highlight those members that help to further our mission by renewing their membership at a level of Contributing, Sustaining or Benefactor member. For the first four months of 2008, we would like to thank the following members for their generous contributions:

### Contributing Members:

Thomas & Beth Banttari	James & Carmen Campbell
Richard & Alice Duncan	John & Sandra Happe
James & TerriAnn Felegy	Al & Rosemary Ritchie
Earl & Virginia Finlayson	Doug & Susan Sietsema
Alta Johnson	Ron & Jan Stokesbary

### Sustaining Members:

John & Carol Eding  
Camp Olson YMCA  
William & Karen Jackson  
Kevin & NinaJean Kohler

### Benefactor Members:

Mike & Kathy Bayer  
Bill & Kay Erickson  
William Hansen Sr.

# President's Corner

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Ron Stokesbary

As I write this in mid-March we are finally enjoying some warm weather. It has been a very cold winter in this part of the state and the warm weather is very welcome.

Your association has been busy this past year. Our Political Action committee has prepared position papers or sent email and letters on various bills and government actions that affect our lakes area. The Fisheries committee has been very active in trying to improve fishing on all four association lakes. Our Water Quality and Loon Count committees continue their fine environmental monitoring work. I could go on and on about the work being accomplished by your association. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our volunteers and especially our Board of Direc-

tors for their efforts. These volunteers are what make this organization work.

This year we are planning to update our lakes management plan. It was created in 2002 and it is time to update it. Please take the time to respond to surveys concerning this and also to volunteer to assist with updating this critical document. This plan helps to guide the Board of Directors on where you want our organization to funnel their efforts. We will provide more information on how and when this update will occur later this spring.

I want to thank those of you who filled out the survey of "what the lakes association should be working on" on our postcard membership drive. This survey helps keep your board of directors better informed on what you think is important for our lakes association.

Please take a few minutes and check our web site, [www.wabedolakes.org](http://www.wabedolakes.org). This is a new web site address and we hope to keep this address for while. It has been updated with new information concerning your organization and lakes. Let us know what you think of this web site and also let us know what else you would like to see there.

And lastly, please volunteer your time and talents to help this organization become even better. You can make a difference! !

**WABEDO, LITTLE BOY, COOPER  
AND RICE  
LAKES ASSOCIATION**

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[www.wabedolakes.org](http://www.wabedolakes.org)



**Executive Board Members 2007-2008**

**President**- Ron Stokesbary- Little Boy  
218-363-2186

**Vice President** - Kathy Wagner - Wabedo  
218-363-2162

**Secretary** - Karen Kaehler - Wabedo  
218-363-2989

**Treasurer** - Mary Albachten – Wabedo  
218-363-2989

**Director Emeritus** - Bruce Black – Wabedo  
218-363-2896

**Directors** –  
Bud Anderson- Wabedo  
218-363-2372

George Black – Wabedo  
218-363-3126

Mary Jane Black- Wabedo  
218-363-2896

Mike Humrickhouse - Wabedo  
218-363-2656

Dave Owen - Little Boy  
218-363-2447

Mike Plotnik -Wabedo  
218-363-3107

Roger Remaley—Wabedo  
952-474-2675

Al Ritchie – Little Boy  
218-363-2443

Cooper - (vacant)

Rice - (vacant)

## Spring Birds at the Lake

Mary Jane Black

Hummingbirds are usually back in Longville in early May. Have their feeders clean and full. Use 4 parts water, boil and add 1 part sugar to dissolve, then cool. No red coloring needed. Change the sugar water at least once a week and keep up feeders until mid-September.

Feeders with a bigger perch will allow Orioles to feed. We had a Rose breasted Grosbeak learn to get sugar water from

the same feeder. Orioles will also feed on orange halves and grape jelly. You will see them when they arrive in mid May until they hatch their young. Then they switch to mostly insects and since they stay high in the trees it's like they disappear for the rest of the summer.

A surprise to us is that Yellowbellied Sapsuckers also have a "sweet bill" and will come to eat grape jelly and sugar water.

## Conservation Officers Tales

Minnesota Conservation Officer Tales - May 2008 MN DNR

**I'm going for some fresh air, dear** While checking a group of four fishermen on Lake of the Woods, CO Robert Gorecki (Baudette) noticed a strong odor of marijuana coming from inside the fish house. When questioned about this, two of the men produced marijuana and marijuana pipes. One of the men stated he was fishing in a portable fish house nearby with his wife, and asked if he could go back there to continue fishing since he did not possess any marijuana, and was only "visiting." After issuing citations to that group, CO Gorecki went to the portable house to check the husband and wife's fish. When the discussion returned to the marijuana incident, the wife became quite upset with the husband. Apparently the husband told his wife that he was "going for some fresh air."

**Kayaker lays an egg**  
CO Marty Stage (Ely) issued a citation to a man with an unregistered kayak that had taken all the eggs from a Canada goose nest. He said he was going to eat them for breakfast and that he felt it was okay since "they" were trying to reduce the geese numbers in other areas anyway.

**Smelters enjoy officer's catch**  
CO Bret Grundmeier (Hinckley) checked several groups of anglers having luck catching smelt. Unfortunately alongside the smelters, other groups were dealt with that preferred to drink more than their share and then toss their empty beer cans and booze bottles into the creek. The smelters seemed to enjoy watching the boozers get citations and then clean the garbage out of the creek



with their smelting dip nets.

**You never know who might be fishing next to you**  
CO Todd Langevin (Center City) came across an angler without a license. The angler did not have any identification and the first two names he gave to the officer were false. Once the suspect's real name was given, it turned out he had 2 felony warrants totaling \$13,000 in bail. The suspect was arrested and charged accordingly.

**A fowl story**  
CO Mike Shelden (Alexandria) interviewed an individual who was observed swerving towards the shoulder of the roadway to run over a Canada goose with his pickup. The driver admitted he had swerved to run the goose over because, "It's only a goose." The individual was charged with killing the goose and also charged restitution for the goose.

(Continued on page 7)

# Conservation Officers Tales - May 2008—cont'd

## Must be a Texas thing

CO Mark Mathy (Cass Lake) followed up on a TIP call of a person riding in the bed of a pickup truck hunting with an uncased bow. Contact was made with the hunter and it was determined that the individual was hunting rabbits and squirrel from the pickup with his bow. The hunter went on to say that he often hunts this way in his home state of Texas and was following in the footsteps of his grandfather who holds the record for the largest armadillo taken in Texas with a bow.

## Moral dilemma

An ATV operator cited for intentionally riding on a trail in the closed Pillsbury State Forest told CO Jim Tischler (Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area), "You do what you can get away with."

## Another DWI

CO Matt Frericks (Virginia) responded to the report of an ATV that was stuck

in the ditch along Highway 53. People driving by called in to report the operator of the ATV appeared to have difficulty standing, was at times falling over and had his pants around his ankles. Once on scene CO Frericks arrested the subject for DWI. This was the subject's 4th DWI in 10 years and his driving license had been canceled. The subject refused to submit to an alcohol test and was transported to jail. Upon arrival at the jail CO Frericks was told that the subject was too intoxicated to be jailed. The subject was transported to the hospital where he is currently being treated for numerous psychiatric conditions.

## No valid reason for such a senseless act

CO Mark Fredin (Aurora) received a TIP call that a deer had been shot at a local golf course. The deer was located with a fatal bullet wound through an eye. Two suspects were interviewed and admitted to shooting the deer with no valid reason other than it was there and they had a gun.

## Out of this world warning to trespassers

CO Don Bozovsky (Hibbing) chuckled after reading a huge "no trespassing" sign on an unoccupied lake home, which read: "Warning, trespassers will be atomized and beamed to Pluto."

## Which ones do I keep?

CO Alan Peterson (Osage) observed an angler catching bluegills nearly one per minute, placing the small ones on the ice and keeping the larger ones in a pail. On two occasions he left smaller fish on the ice for 20 minutes, the second time pushing them back in the water on the Officer's approach. The angler said the little ones were interfering with his attempt to catch the bigger ones. He was cited for culling.

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## WABEDO-LITTLE BOY-COOPER-RICE LAKES ASSOCIATION

### Application for Annual Membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last

First

Spouse/Additional Owner

Lake Address \_\_\_\_\_

Street/route address

Telephone #

City, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Lake \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address \_\_\_\_\_

Street

Telephone #

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Regular Member—\$20 \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: **WLBCR Lakes Assoc, PO Box 133, Longville, MN 56655**

Contributing Member—\$40 \_\_\_\_\_

Sustaining Member—\$60 \_\_\_\_\_

Lakes Association Website:

Benefactor Member—\$100 \_\_\_\_\_

**www.wabedolakes.org**

Associate Member—\$25 \_\_\_\_\_ (non-voting)

**DUES REMINDER: The # over your name on the mailing label tells you when your dues were paid. If you have less than 2008, you need to pay your dues!**