



## Walker Area Walleye Coalition

The Walker Area Walleye Coalition was very successful last year and the beginning of 2007 in working with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to accelerate the stocking of walleyes into the Coalition lakes. Our Lakes Association was very active in working with the WAWC to get walleyes stocked into our Association lakes.

For Little Boy Lake, the DNR has agreed to change the stocking of 800,000 walleye fry from once every 3-4 years to an every other year schedule. 2006 was the first year of this new stocking schedule. The DNR also

completed gill netting on Little Boy in 2006.

Lake Wabedo received 590 pounds of walleye fingerlings in the fall of 2006 and this will be repeated every other year instead of the 3 year schedule that was previously in place.

Inguadona Lake residents banded together and bought their own fingerlings in 2006 because the DNR was not receptive to stocking their lake. After the last meeting the WAWC had with DNR personnel this spring, Inguadona will now receive fingerlings every other year.

There were many successes during these discussions and negotiations with DNR concerning the quality of walleye fishing in the Walker area lakes. We should all thank the hard work of our Lakes Association Fisheries committee and other residents who participated, especially Dick Sternberg from Little Boy Lake, who provided invaluable expertise during these discussions and meetings. Dick helped all of the lakes in the Walker Area Walleye Coalition, but we would like to thank him especially for his work on Little Boy, Wabedo, and Inguadona. Thanks, Dick!

## Catch and Release

There is more to catch and release than simply returning a fish to the water. Some released fish will die from hooking injuries no matter how carefully they are handled, but with proper care nearly all fish hooked in the jaw or mouth and two out of three deeply hooked fish should survive.

Please help ensure the survival of released fish by using the following techniques: Use barbless hooks.

Play and land fish quickly. Struggling for too long causes a build-up of lactic acids in the fish, which can be fatal.

Keep the fish in the water as much as possible. If possible, remove the hook without re-

moving the fish from the water.

Snip deeply embedded hooks and allow them to dissolve. Cut the line if the fish is hooked in the throat or stomach. Fish are much more likely to survive if deeply embedded hooks are left in place and allowed to dissolve.

If the hook is in the jaw or lip, hold the fish gently at the base of the head just behind the gill covers and remove the hook with needle nose pliers. Be very careful not to squeeze the fish.

Don't drop the fish in the boat or allow it to thrash around on the shore. Fish bruise easily, and damage to internal organs can be fatal.

Never lift fish by the eye sock-

ets or gills. Use both hands to support the fish's weight evenly.

Wet your hands before lifting the fish. If it is necessary to set the fish down, place it on a smooth, wet surface.

An unconscious fish can be revived by holding it upright in the water and gently moving it back and forth. Don't release the fish until you are sure it can swim away on its own. Make sure to release the fish slowly into calm water.

A fish that can be legally kept should not be released if it is bleeding heavily. Remember that you can't intentionally fish for any species during its closed season.

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### Dates to Remember

**Annual Meeting- Sat June 23 - Yah Club 10am**

**Picnic- Sat Aug 11 - St. Edwards 10am**

# Weeds Are Critical to Our Ecosystem

Aquatic plants are a natural part of most lake communities and provide many benefits to fish, wildlife, and people. In lakes, life depends--directly or indirectly--on water plants. They are the primary producers in the aquatic food chain, converting the basic chemical nutrients in the water and soil into plant matter, which becomes food for all other life.

Aquatic plants serve many important functions:

## **Provide fish food**

More food for fish is produced in areas of aquatic vegetation than in areas where there are no plants. Insect larvae, snails, and freshwater shrimp thrive in plant beds. Sunfish--Minnesota's most sought-after game fish--eat aquatic plants in addition to aquatic insects and crustaceans.

## **Offer fish shelter**

Plants provide shelter for young fish. Because bass, sunfish, and yellow perch usually nest in areas where vegetation is growing, certain areas of lakes are protected and posted by the DNR as fish spawning areas during spring and early summer. Northern pike use aquatic plants, too, by spawning in marshy and flooded areas in early spring.

## **Improve water clarity and quality**

Certain water plants, like bulrushes, can absorb and break down polluting chemicals. Nutrients used by aquatic plants for growth are not available to algae. This reduces algae abundance improving water

clarity. Aquatic plants also maintain water clarity by preventing the re-suspension of bottom sediments. Algae, which thrive on dissolved nutrients, can become a nuisance when too many submerged water plants are destroyed.

## **Protect shorelines and lake bottoms**

Aquatic plants, especially rushes and cattails, dampen the force of waves and help prevent shoreline erosion. Submerged aquatic plants also weaken wave action and help stabilize bottom sediment.



## **Provide food and shelter for waterfowl**

Many submerged plants produce seeds and tubers (roots), which are eaten by waterfowl. Bulrushes, sago pondweed, wild celery, and wild rice are especially important duck foods. Submerged plants also provide habitat to many insect species and other invertebrates that are, in turn, important

foods for brooding hens and migrating waterfowl.

## **Improve aesthetics**

The visual appeal of a lakeshore often includes aquatic plants, which are a natural, critical part of a lake community. Plants such as water lilies, arrowhead, and pickerelweed have flowers or leaves that many people enjoy.

## **Provide economic value**

As a natural component of lakes, aquatic plants support the economic value of all lake activities. Minnesota has a huge tourism industry centered on lakes and the recreation they support. Residents and tourists spend more than \$1.5 billion each year to hunt, fish, camp, and watch wildlife on and around the state's lakes. The wild rice harvesting industry alone is worth at least \$2 million to Minnesota's economy.

## President's Corner- Bruce Black

4/20/07

With all the walleyes stocked in Wabedo last fall it should be no problem to catch one for a fish fry. I am sitting at the kitchen table, after just getting back from 3 months in Florida and the lake is very dark. I think the ice will go out today or tomorrow and then I can get ready to catch the aforementioned "eyes". I also have to get Mary Jane to put out the dock and boat lift, part of her new exercise program.

Our new septic system survived the winter, but because our system is like two systems, very complicated, I am not sure the new system is receiving, what septic's receive yet? We even have two pumps,

plus a neat little red do-dad that screams if one of the pumps is not pumping the doodoo from one tank to another tank, to finally the drain field. Part of the backyard still looks like downtown Baghdad.

One of the reasons you race back from 80 degree weather is to rediscover the joys of owning in the north country. We replaced the well two years ago in the big freeze, the septic last year, and who knows what will go this year. So far the 4 wheeler won't start, the chain saw won't start, forget about the weed eater, they never start, I only have the lawn mower and boat motor left.

Last year the boat motor failed for the first time in 10 years. I think it was over fogged in the fall just like the owner. Did I mention that we have to replace the 30 year shingles we got 15 years ago. The boys in town said there was a bad batch about 15 years ago, we must have got them. The good news; the air is clean and it is very quiet and peaceful. Sort of. I forgot to spring the mouse traps, so the 4 dead critters in the basement made Mary Jane scream, but because they had time to mummify they didn't smell that bad.

See you at the annual meeting and picnic.

# 10 Tips for 10,000 lakes

## Keep it natural—restore your shore

Preserving or installing a shoreline landscape that is rich in native species allows water to soak in rather than run off. Plants absorb nutrients, and vegetative buffers along shorelines also trap sediments that fill in wetlands and lakes. Natural erosion controls are more consistent with an “up-north” look than unnatural shoreline erosion treatments such as rip-rap.

## Know your lake & river rules

Shoreline areas provide important habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, and fish and are crucial for maintaining healthy populations of the native species that Minnesotans cherish. It is unlawful in Minnesota to knowingly alter shoreline, fish habitat, or aquatic vegetation without a permit from the Minnesota DNR. Upland permits are often required by the county or city—check local ordinances. Educate yourself about other water use rules, such as boat and water safety, installing permanent and floating docks, or hunting/fishing regulations.

## Appreciate aquatic plants

Aquatic “weeds” are a critical life-support system for our lakes. With their amazing filtering abilities, native aquatic plants such as cattails and bulrushes are natural water purifiers – taking up nutrients and allowing sunlight to penetrate into the lake and create the base of the food chain. The rooted aquatic vegetation is also a veritable fish nursery. Work to minimize the removal of shoreline aquatic vegetation.

## Reduce your lawn

The fertilizers and clippings from traditional lawns contribute to poor lake water quality. Install a native landscape and mow less. Once established, natural landscapes are less expensive and easier to maintain than traditional lawns. If lawn is desired, use only phosphorus free fertilizers and maintain a lawn that is at least thirty feet from the lake. Keep native trees and vegetation, with their extensive root systems—they help stabilize the landscape, aid in groundwater recharge, and reduce runoff.

## Maintain your septic system

Keep your septic system in good working order. Pump at least every three years (more if you use a garbage disposal), conserve water; properly dispose of harmful paints and household chemicals, fix leaky faucets, and consider service agreements with regular maintenance.

## Reduce roofs and roads

Roofs, sidewalks, paved driveways, and roads increase the amount of water that runs off into our lakes. Run-off water carries fertilizers, household cleaners, paints, solvents, pesticides, and motor oil. Decrease the amount of hard surfaces on your property. Use newer, more pervious materials for sidewalks, driveways, and patios.

## Properly dispose of animal waste

Controlling pet and livestock waste improves the quality of our waters. Pet and livestock waste can travel into our waters more easily than human-produced wastes, because they are not subject to the same wastewater treatment that human wastes are. Dispose of such wastes far from the water’s edge to help ensure that bacteria, phosphorus and nitrogen from these wastes don’t end up in our lakes.

## Be considerate of all lake & river users

Shoreland owners and users value Minnesota waters in many different ways. Consider some of the many different ways we use our lakes: personal watercraft, boating, tubing, water-skiing, fishing, hunting, canoeing, wildlife-watching, and swimming. Part of being a good lake steward and neighbor is being considerate of everyone’s values. Follow local watercraft rules and noise ordinances to help ensure a positive experience for everyone who uses Minnesota’s waters for recreation.



## Support land conservation

The donation or purchase of conservation easements is one of the most cost-effective ways to protect sensitive shorelines from development. Shoreland owners and users can help by maintaining records of changes to shoreline; keeping a watchful eye out for upcoming land sales or transfers; and encouraging donations (land or financial) to conservation easement programs, projects, committees, or land trusts.

## Show up. Speak up. Write a check.

Decisions are made by those who show up and speak up. Join your lake association or river group. Give money, time, input, and feedback to support organizations working to protect Minnesota’s waters for future generations. Share your knowledge with your neighbors and with those elected and appointed officials who represent you. Be vigilant.

## DIY Deer Repellent

(Excerpted from This Old House magazine). Here is a recipe for “deer juice” which the TOH writer claims works very well. Here is how to mix up a batch for yourself.

1 bar of Fels Naptha Soap

2 bunches of scallions, roughly chopped

2 heads of garlic, cloves separated

4 eggs

Chili powder, lots

Fill ½ of a 5 gallon bucket with hot water

Shave soap into bucket to dissolve. Place pouch in bucket.

Fill the bucket with more water; cover tightly with lid. Place

Place scallions, garlic, eggs and chili powder in a large piece of doubled cheesecloth. Tie up ends of cloth tightly; use a wooden spoon to crack the eggs. In shaded area, let sit for 1 week.

Transfer in batches to a pump sprayer. Apply after each rainfall or every 2 weeks

# Nature Notes

Mary Jane Black

Dec 4 - First below zero night

April 16th-Monday noon, home from 3 ½ months in Fort Myers after 2 ½ days driving. Tiny patches of snow. Road O.K., driveway fine- Well water came on in house and septic seems fine. The furnace pilot light out-luckily a recent happening and 4 mice caught in downstairs trap. Eagle fly by along the lake shore. Ice just melting along the shoreline. Some kind of crane flying by also. Evidence of porcupine eating our stag-horn sumac.

April 17th-flock of juncos , big pilliated woodpecker on deck railing looking at our seed feeder.. Tony Sausman heard loon on Wabedo, 2 swans flew by across the narrows. Beautiful starry sky, nearly absolute quiet and clean up north smell-reasons we love to come home.

April 19th- a dozen common merganser ducks diving and catching minnows in the open water crack across the narrows.

April 20th- Aspen catkins hanging, pussy willow buds out, cattails going to

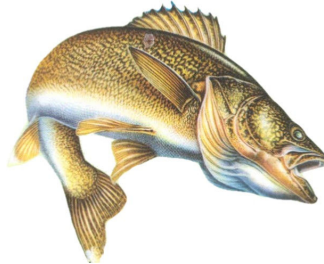
fluffy seed and “Flower” the woodchuck made it thru hibernation. Swamp frogs

chirping loudly enough I stopped to watch them with binoculars. They are dull brown, 4 inches long with yellow lined lips and eyes. Lake is ½ ice covered

April 21-Granddaughter’s birthday.-6 yrs old-overnight rain and all the ice on Wabedo is gone.

Remember to tune into KAXE John Latimer’s phenology reports Tuesdays 7:30 am at 91.7 fm, Northern Community Radio out of Grand Rapids.

On a side note, Jessica Carrie, on the opener, who was fishing with her father caught a nice 29” walleye after a terrific battle. The fish was netted by her father.



## Inguadona Ingots

The ice finally went out on April 21. It was almost ready to go earlier when we had another cold spell (wind chills and all) and a foot of snow.

The lake level is still very low. It has come back a bit but we desperately need rain.

The loons, egrets, herons, geese and ducks are all back and love is in the air.

You will be surprised when you see the Anchorage. One day in January the old part of the building was demolished - by choice - not disaster. Since then the new building has miraculously been built and they will be open on May 5. Talk about speedy!

See you all soon.

Mary Jane Lewis

# Water Clarity and Property Values

According to a recent Bemidji State University study, property values can be negatively impacted by a reduction in water clarity and positively impacted by an improvement in water clarity.

Retrofitting a study originally completed on lakes in Maine, researchers examined thirty-seven lakes in the eight-county Mississippi Headwaters Board region and concluded that lake water clarity affects lake property prices. The study provides hard facts for a “direct and dramatic link between good stewardship practices” and property owners’ pocket-books, according Hickman of the Initiative Foundation’s Healthy Lakes and Rivers Partnership (HLRP) program.

Through HLRP grants and training, nearly 1,200 citizen volunteers have created water management plans for 150 Minnesota lakes and rivers.

“Preserving water quality is always the number-one goal,” adds Hickman. “We primarily work with shoreland property owners who have the most impact on the lake as well as the most to gain and the most to lose.”



The Bemidji State research team calculated how property prices would change if water clarity decreased by one meter. Brainerd’s Gull Lake, for example, would decrease nearly \$53 per frontage foot for a total change of more than \$8.8 million across the entire lakefront. By improving water quality, Gull’s property prices could increase more than \$39 per frontage foot for a lake-wide total of more than \$6.5 million. Considering a lakehome as an asset, that’s a serious capital investment to protect.

**WABEDO- LITTLE BOY- INGUADONA- COOPER- RICE**

**LAKES ASSOCIATION**

Application for Membership \$20 per annum

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

Last

First

Spouse

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

Street/route address

Telephone #

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

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

Street

Telephone #

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ \$20 annual dues \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: **MARY JANE LEWIS, 4874 Mix Lane NE, Longville, MN 56655**

**<http://www.mnlakes.org/wabedo/> Lakes Association Website.**

**DUES REMINDER: The # over your name on the mailing label tells you the year you were up to date on your dues. If you have less than 7, you need to pay your dues!**

**WABEDO, LITTLE BOY, INGUADONA,  
RICE AND COOPER  
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[http://www.mnlakes.org/  
wabedo/](http://www.mnlakes.org/wabedo/)

## Updated Website!

Check out our recently updated website! Bookmark it so you can check back often as we are still in the process of updating it.

[www.mnwaters.org/wabedo](http://www.mnwaters.org/wabedo)

The website now has data on fisheries, loon counts, and water quality. It has the latest newsletter, annual meeting minutes and more.

Check it out and contact Ron Stokes-bary at [rjstokes@arvig.net](mailto:rjstokes@arvig.net) or Derek Ponath at [dponath@hotmail.com](mailto:dponath@hotmail.com) if you have any suggestions, comments, or if you would like to contribute to the web site.

## BOARD MEMBERS

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List of plants to see in the channel between Little Boy and Wabedo-enjoy a slow trip and see:

Wild Rice-really a grass, lays in water , ripens in Sept, then gets upright .

Reed Canary Grass-Native grass up to 7 feet tall, grows in masses.

Narrow leaved cattail-has become the prominent cattail, outgrowing the common(wide Leaved) cattail.

Yellow Water Lily

Fragrant Water Lily-white flowers

Marsh Marigolds-yellow flowers early spring

Blue Flag-wild iris

Common Arrowhead-arowshaped leaves

Spotted Jewelweed or touch-me-nots

Ferns

Water smartweed, swamp smartweed

Canada thistle, Bull thistle

Golden Rod-doesn't cause allergy, ragweed is the main culprit

## Water Transparency

### How to Estimate a Fish's Weight without a Scale

Scales can damage a fish, and weighing can prolong the amount of time a fish spends out of water. Use a ruler to measure your catch, and then use the following formulas to estimate weight:

Walleye: length x length x length divided by 2,700

Pike & musky: length x length x length divided by 3,500

Sunfish: length x length x length divided by 1,200

Bass: length x length x girth (the distance around the body) divided by 1,200

Trout: length x girth x girth divided by 800

Formulas obtained from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

### Minnesota's Lakes Warming

A analysis by the National Snow and Ice Data Center found that Minnesota's lakes are thawing earlier each spring, with ice-out occurring 20 days earlier than average on some lakes. Almost 80 percent of the lakes in Minnesota and five other states (Michigan, Wisconsin, New York, Maine, Alaska) are thawing two weeks earlier, on average, than they did 100 years ago. The data also showed that the total number of days that the nation's lakes are frozen is decreasing, some by as many as 21 days. January of 2006 was the warmest in 112 years. The changes are consistent with sustained temperature increases resulting from global warming, said Jacob Pruski, staff member of the National Environmental Trust.

Longtime lake association member Jim Lewis passed away this winter. Jim was a strong supporter of our organization for many years and we will miss him.