

**October 2018**

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**BIG MANTRAP LAKE ASSOCIATION**

HOME THE LAKE LOONS AIS & WATER QUALITY HISTORY NEWS ABOUT BMLA

**Introducing [www.mantraplake.org](http://www.mantraplake.org)**



**THE Aerie**

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF THE BIG MANTRAP LAKE ASSOCIATION

**Word from the President**

Boats on trailers, docks on shore, the early morning boat motors and loon calls slowly changing over to the gunshots of hunters. It would seem the Summer of 2018 has come to an end. Some of us will stick it out for few more weeks but once the leaves are down and the pipes are drained much of the 2018 experience will draw to a close.

What a year it was, though. We got to see the new Loon Boat Motor in action, some spectacular weather, making new friends, and reacquainting with old ones.

Of course this is just the latest chapter in the long history of Mantrap Lake. For some our first summer for others the latest of many and still others whose span generations. This is why I was thrilled at the August meeting that



many shared my enthusiasm to start collecting the history from around the lake and area that we can share with each other and our future generations.

We'll do our best to feature some of what we find here in the Aerie and also on our other big accomplishment of 2018: **MantrapLake.org** This site is

just the beginning as we hope to continue to build on it as a resource for all things Big Mantrap Lake.

Lastly, I'd like to also recognize one more easily overlooked effort that is best witnessed by the continuing pristine nature of our lake: The AIS effort and inspectors that have managed to keep our lake clean another year as the threats move ever closer. With 2019 drawing nearer comes the time to begin thinking about supporting that effort however we can. Please consider donating to the AIS fund which is expecting to see an increase in costs for 2019.

Keep an eye on our website and Facebook pages this winter, especially if you're starting the countdown to a spring return. We'll be listening to loon calls in no time.

# 2018 Aquatic Invasive Species Update

JIM NEMZEK, BMLA AIS COORDINATOR

Another year, more Minnesota lakes infested with AIS.

The last four years, including 2018, about the same number of boats have been inspected at Big Mantrap's main access, involving about the same number of inspection hours.

Our lake continues to have an excellent inspection program at our public access, thanks to the yearly donations from our lake residents, the work of the Big Mantrap Lake Association and funds from the four townships and the state. The secondary access on the minimum maintenance road is seldom used in the fishing season. It is predominantly used by duck hunters and ice fishermen. There is a recent sign at the turnoff from Jewel Drive directing folks to the main access.

The two big resorts send all their guests to the main access. The other two resorts have owners well aware

of the dangers of an infestation to the lake and their livelihood. Both owners are at their accesses AT LEAST on weekends at guest turnover.

AIS can be spread by boatlifts and docks transferred from infested waters to our lake. Please be on the lookout for any such transfers that could be a source and let people know to check carefully for any stowaways.

I estimate our inspectors are at our access about 64% of the fishing and recreational boating season daylight hours this year. We can increase this to about 72% next year by using the maximum 10 hours shifts allowed by the county every day from fishing opening to about October 22.

More lakes have become infested in Hubbard County and in the surrounding counties. The Interactive Distribution Map on the Hubbard County AIS website shows locations. Go to [www.co.hubbard.mn.us/departments/environmental\\_services/ais](http://www.co.hubbard.mn.us/departments/environmental_services/ais) and click on the interactive map link.

## Number of boats inspected at the Big Mantrap public access during the last several years

year	boats inspected	boats entered	inspection hours
2010	901	586	768
2011	1102	?	928
2012	1400	?	928
2013	2433	1445	1208
2014	2720	1570	1417
2015	2572	1503	1404
2016	2731	1651	1562
2017	2358	1484	1450
2018			1476 *
2019			1640 **

\*hours scheduled, \*\* hours proposed

## Infested lakes in Hubbard County

- Curlyleaf Pondweed – 6 lakes, first found in 3 lakes in 1995, 2 in 2017, 1 in 2018.
- Eurasian Watermilfoil – first found in 1 lake (Badaxe), 2017.
- Zebra Mussels – first found in 3 lakes in 2017.
- Faucet Snails – 6 lakes, first found in 1 lake in 2009, 2 in 2011, 1 (Long Lake) in 2017 and 2 in 2018.
- Starry Stonewort – found in Wolf Lake, September 2018.
- Big Mantrap has had Purple Loosestrife since 1998 and Banded Mystery Snail since 2008. These are considered relatively harmless except for competing with native species.

# Big Mantrap Nature Notes, May 2018

BURNEY FISCHER

Winterkill in Minnesota generally means a fish kill that results in lots of floating dead fish washed up on shore when the ice goes out. There are stories of few of these on various bays in Big Mantrap in years in the past. This past long winter took its toll on Mantrap wildlife rather than fish. I found at least five large, dead snapping turtles in shallow water



in Steamboat Bay and Arlis McGinnis reports finding three dead snapping turtles near their dock in Pine Bay.

Thick ice, snow cover and maybe late season ice jams probably reduced oxygen levels and the turtles were asphyxiated. In addition to the turtles, I found two large dead beavers floating in the shallows of the Steamboat Bay and nearby Turtle Point while Mark Condiff found an additional two dead beavers at the end of Steamboat Bay. I am not guessing what may have killed the beavers. If you have additional reports please email Burney at [bufische@indiana.edu](mailto:bufische@indiana.edu).

As a forest ecologist, I am always interested in uncommon tree species. Mountain Ash, which display spectacular clusters spring flowers followed by red berries in the fall, while rather common along the north shore of Lake Superior are very uncommon in western MN. I have located a couple clumps of Mountain Ash trees along Big Mantrap shorelines. Several rather large trees are located on the east shoreline of the South Basin. There are also a couple smaller trees along Junco Drive near Fremont Point. If you know of others, I would appreciate knowing about them. Contact Burney at [bufische@indiana.edu](mailto:bufische@indiana.edu).

We are always looking for new Nature Notes for the Aerie. Please send submissions to Burney at [bufische@indiana.edu](mailto:bufische@indiana.edu) and we will publish stories in future issues.

October 2018

## Big Mantrap Lake Association Membership Form

check one:  New member  Renew

Please print

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mantrap Lake address \_\_\_\_\_

Do you receive mail at this address during July?  Yes  No

phone \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

Winter address \_\_\_\_\_

phone \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

Membership dues are \$25 for full membership, or \$15 for the newsletter only.

They are due in December. Make checks payable to Big Mantrap Lake Association, and mail them to Barb Fischer, 618 W Soutar Drive, Bloomington IN 47403.

October 2018 Aerie

### Board of Directors

President	<b>Rich Halvorsen</b>	612-245-9391	<a href="mailto:rich.halvorsen@gmail.com">rich.halvorsen@gmail.com</a>
Vice President			
Secretary	<b>Linda Zawacki</b>	651-246-3844	<a href="mailto:lzboutique@comcast.net">lzboutique@comcast.net</a>
Treasurer	<b>Barb Fischer</b>	765-414-4197	<a href="mailto:barbf49@aol.com">barbf49@aol.com</a>
AIS coordinator	<b>Jim Nemzek</b>	218-732-4887	
Board member	<b>Kathy Nevins</b>	605-695-2959	<a href="mailto:knevins62@gmail.com">knevins62@gmail.com</a>
Board member	<b>Jim Zawacki</b>	651-735-8613	<a href="mailto:blgzlmn@comcast.net">blgzlmn@comcast.net</a>
Board member	<b>Stephen Remund</b>		<a href="mailto:itascapark@gmail.com">itascapark@gmail.com</a>



Mountain Ash leaves and berries. Birds love the berries.

Photo credit: Bruce Marlin, [http://www.citrusimage.com/tree\\_American\\_mountain-ash.htm](http://www.citrusimage.com/tree_American_mountain-ash.htm)

Barb Fischer  
618 W Soutar Drive  
Bloomington IN 47403

## AIS Monitoring – It is more than just monitoring boats at the ramp

We all see the road signs about clean, drain and dispose regarding boats and other recreational toys to stop the transport of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) from one lake to another. Recent boat monitoring data from Hubbard County suggests that only 1-2% of boaters are not following these simple rules with the big culprit being drain plugs in boats and live wells.

However, there is another important pathway for AIS transport between lakes – the movement of pontoon boats, docks, lifts, floating platforms of all types, water pumps and who knows what else.

Anything that sits in a lake over time has the possibility of harboring some kind of AIS. All service providers are supposed to follow decontamination procedures before moving equipment between lakes. For the do-it-yourself person the common rule-of-thumb is that any items moved from one lake to another should be decontaminated or left to dry away from the shore for a period of 21 days. A better process for the acquisition of used docks, lifts, pontoon boats, etc., from another lake is to acquire at equipment at the end of the recreation season, let it sit outside all winter and then install the following spring. So, think about it, have you bought, borrowed or brought something from another lake during the recreation season to Big Mantrap? Did you follow the rules or did you risk contaminating Big Mantrap?



## Restore the Shore sells low cost, high quality trees & shrubs

Restore the shore order form available at <http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/score--restore-your-shore.html>

The RTS program allows Hubbard County COLA members to place small quantity orders for high quality, low cost tree, berry and shrub plants for your property. See web site above for information. BMLA must submit orders to Kathy Nevins by October 23 so she can submit the order to HC COLA.