

2019 Loon Season Big Mantrap Lake

AIS Report

Big Mantrap sampling (June and July, 2019) and subsequent RMBEL analysis found no Zebra Mussel veligers. However, a piece of Eurasian Watermilfoil was confirmed at the public landing. We will have more information in early or mid-summer after DNR tests. See full story on page 3.



24 nests
49 eggs
40 hatched
As of August 15th – 58 adults and 27 chick/juveniles

40/49 hatched = 81.6%
27/40 chicks = 67.5%



THE Aerie

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF THE BIG MANTRAP LAKE ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors

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could be you, Vice President

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Stephen Remund, Board member
itascapark@gmail.com

Programs

AIS, Jim Nemzek

Ice-in/Ice-out dates, Sue Ryan

Looners, Barry Guptill

Newsletter, Barb, Burney and Cindy

Veliger Sampling, Dave Myrchie

Water Quality Monitoring, Burney and Jerry

2019 Mantrap Lake Loon Report

STEVE MAANUM

Monday, April 22 a group of volunteers met at the Pine Bay Marina to prepare the rafts. The group was comprised of Warren and Arlis, Lyle and Fran, Janet Dixon, Steve Remund, Ron Harlow, Barry, Bill Mills, and Steve.

The ice left the lake on Thursday, April 25 so the next morning, even though it was 38 degrees, Warren, Arlis, Barry, Bill, and Steve began placing rafts around the lake.

Loons were seen in Hoist Bay, Pine Bay, Birch Bay, Upper Deadhead, Loon Bay, Mud Flats, Fremont Point, Steamboat Bay (by Bill's raft), and by Dead Island. Vlcek's pair visited the raft almost immediately and within 15 minutes, one was on the raft.

Eggs began appearing on May 13 and by May 16 we already observed predation on three natural nests – Lady Slipper West, Mirror Bay, and Lower Deadhead.

We did not



have cameras on Lady Slipper West or Mirror Bay, but the camera close to the nest at Lower Deadhead captured the egg robbers. (see photo above)

Typically when a nest gets predated early, the loons may re-nest, but usually only one egg appears the second time around. We were happily surprised to see that in all three cases,



the loons re-nested. Each laid a pair of eggs, resulting in two chicks being hatched from each nest.

In 2017 we hosted a film crew that was working on a loon program for National Geographic. In 2019 Smithsonian sent a videographer who was hired to obtain footage for a loon program they are producing. They will let us know when it will be aired and we will pass on that

information through a newsletter or through the web site – <https://mantraplake.org/>

The collected loon data for the year indicated once again the effectiveness of the Mantrap nesting project. 24 nests were observed – 19 on rafts and five natural nests. Those nests produced a record number

of eggs (49) and 40 of those eggs hatched (81.6% success rate).

68 adults and 28 juveniles were counted during the annual July survey for a total of 96 loons on the lake.

All in all it was a very good year for the loons on Mantrap Lake. As we look forward to 2020, Warren, Arlis, Ron Harlow, and Barry have already cut and stored the natural vegetation that will be used on the rafts next spring. We continue to sell old rafts, while replacing them with improved models. Since the price of aluminum has skyrocketed, only one new raft will be purchased for next spring.

We have always been fortunate to receive generous donations each year from lake residents and loon enthusiasts. As a result, the Mantrap Loon project continues to serve as a successful example to others of what loon conservation at the grass roots level can achieve.

2019 Loon Volunteers

- Steve Maanum
- Barry Guptill
- Lyle Laske
- Letitia Laske
- Bill Mills
- MaryLou Meyers
- Burney Fischer
- Barb Fischer
- Janet Dixon
- Bill Moore
- Gerry Johnson
- Jim Nemzek
- Warren McGinnis
- Arlis McGinnis
- Ron Harlow
- Stephen Remund
- Carol Sierk
- Nikki Taylor

- Bortz, Astrid for the Tom Barta memorial
- Campbell, Linda
- Condiff, Mark & Cindy
- Dixon, Janet
- Estlick, Ty & Mary for the Daniel Estlick memorial
- Fegley, Gary & Cindy
- Fielder, Doug & Catherine
- Fischer, Barb & Burney for the Rick Johnson memorial
- Fischer, Barb & Burney for the Joy Mills memorial
- Gorman, Robert & Kristi
- Greteman, David & Debbie
- Guptill, Barry for the Karen Remund memorial
- Halvorsen, Sharon
- Harlow, Ron
- Hoffman, Clifford & Laraine
- Junge, Deborah for the Ron Kersten memorial
- Kauffmann, JP & Rouleau
- Kersten Ron & Sarah for the Len Beckel memorial
- Kind, Sharon
- Kline, George & Ginna
- Land, Marcia & Gerald
- Laske, Letitia for the Joy Mills memorial
- Laske, Lyle & Fran for the Joy Mills memorial
- Laske, Lyle & Fran for the Tom Barta memorial

- Laske, Lyle & Francine Trust for the Rick Johnson memorial
- Maanum, Steve
- Masek, John for the Miles Masek memorial
- Masek, John for the Leonard Beckel memorial
- Masek, John for the Ron Kersten memorial
- McArdle, Pat & Eunice
- McGinnis, Warren & Arlis for the Rick Johnson and Tom Wood memorials
- Meier, ML & Miller, VA
- Moore, William for the Joy Mills memorial
- Myhre, Linda & David
- Nevins, Kathy & Rollie
- O'Neil, Patty & Brooks for the Dan Estlick memorial
- Persellin, Scott
- Rance, Marlene for the Tom Barta memorial
- Ryan, Ronald & Colleen
- Sierk, Carol
- Smith, Daniel & Norita
- Swenson, Brett & Michelle
- Swenson, Michelle & Brett
- Thomsen, Roy & Stacy
- Topp, Rodney & Debra
- Ulm, Dennis Trustee for the Len Beckel memorial
- Walker, Jef & Kathryn

General Contribution to BMLA

- Johnson, Alan & Carol

2019 Loon Contributors

- Billion, David
- Boe, Sheralee

Thank you!

Letter from the President

Greetings Fellow Mantrappers,

On Friday, February 21 Jim Nemzek, Burney Fischer (via phone), and I met with representatives from Hubbard County COLA, Hubbard County Environmental Services, and the Minnesota DNR. I drove 200 miles (which, fun fact, doesn't come close to the farthest I've traveled in a day for a meeting) because like many of you the quality of our lake and the response to invasive species is of utmost importance.

Last fall Eurasian Watermilfoil was found in Big Mantrap Lake. Details were sketchy and raised questions about the extent of the find, communication about it, and response to it.

This meeting was about "what do we do now". However, some details were clarified.

What we know:

A piece of Eurasian Watermilfoil, not to be confused with our native Northern Watermilfoil, was found floating near the main boat launch. The DNR confirmed it was indeed the invasive species.

What we don't know:

Since the sample was not found growing the next step becomes confirming if it exists in the lake. Though it may feel like wishful thinking there is a possibility that this piece came from somewhere else, such as a boat trailer. The next step is to search the lake to try and find more of it.

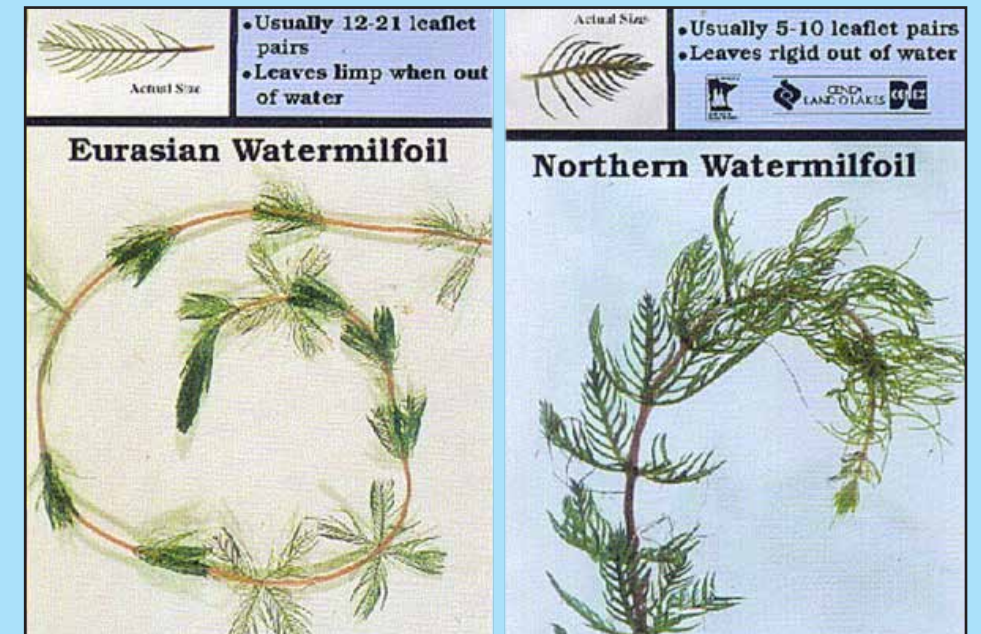
When will there be more information?

Until the search is done the lake is not considered infested, it should not be listed, signed or published that it is. It sounds like someone jumped the gun and this is part of why some unfortunately found out from the Park Rapids Enterprise article.

What happens next?

The DNR has a standard for searching for infestation based on the species. In this case, a sampling pattern thoroughly covering the location of

Until the search on Big Mantrap (for Eurasian Watermilfoil) is done, our lake is not considered infested. It should not be listed, signed or published that it is.



the find as well as a zig-zag pattern through the littoral zone (basically, the shoreline area where weeds can grow) around the entire lake.

This species also dictates the timing of the search. Unlike some weeds which begin to grow even before ice out, the Milfoil species don't thoroughly show themselves until mid-June. Also because of Mantrap's extensive shoreline and therefore littoral zone, the search will be conducted only in the West Arm.

So we'll be on pins and needles for a while. About the only thing we can do is be extra astute about any Milfoil we come across this spring.

The good news (if you can call it that)

Eurasian Watermilfoil, is actually considered pretty low on the list of AIS infestations. Unlike some of the more extreme examples – like Zebra Mussels – it takes hold better in lakes where there aren't healthy native species to compete with. If you're remotely as bad at retrieving a heavy

lure as I am, you know our native species of Milfoil and everything else are doing very well.

Without the means to run amok it is entirely possible it can coexist without making the noticeable difference in lakes without the healthy, natural shorelines. It is very good at reproducing but it doesn't carry well around a body of water without help. If it's loosely intermixed it's less likely things like boat traffic will spread it further around the lake.

Lastly, the County, COLA, and DNR are able to assist with the tools to control it, if it should be confirmed in June. Our neighbors on Bad Axe also have put a lot of the leg work and gained experience in dealing with theirs. Your BMLA board will continue to be in touch with each of these groups as we head into the spring so we're as prepared as we can be.

For some of you this may all be obvious, but it gave me some piece of mind to finally answer some of these questions.

Think Spring!

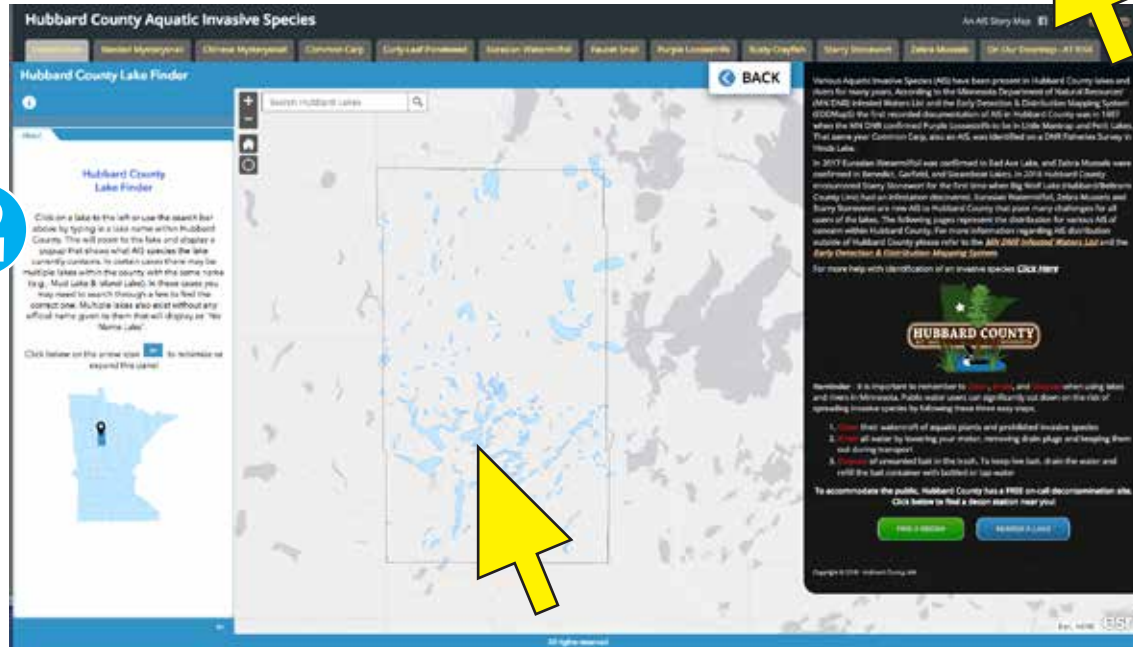
Hubbard County AIS maps by lake

Here is the link that Nicholas Macklem has on the Hubbard County website that shows on a map of the AIS by lake. This is good guide to assess whether you or a visitor have been on a Hubbard County AIS infested lake and should get your boat washed before launching back on Big Mantrap. <https://hubbardcounty.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=d4243da020f347159a60844c4e4e1309>. Or search on Hubbard County Aquatic Invasive Distribution map. Click on **SEARCH A LAKE**, then, in the map, click on the lake you are interested in.

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AIS contributors

3 M Wonewok Employees
 Billion, David
 Boe, Sheralee
 Campbell, Linda
 Condiff, Gary & Judy
 Condiff, Mark & Cindy
 Conzemius, Mark & Jeanie
 Dildine, John & Christine
 Dixon, Frances
 Dixon, Janet
 Estlick, Ty & Mary
 Evans, Mildred
 Fegley, Gary & Cindy
 Fielder, Doug & Catherine
 Fischer, Barb & Burney
 Gorman, Robert & Kristi

Hansen Resorts, Mantrap Lodge
 Hansen, Michael & Heidi
 Harlow, Ron
 Hoffman, Clifford & Laraine
 Ingebrand-Pohlard, Mary
 Johnson, Gerald & Linda
 Johnson, Greg & Meg
 Johnson, Holly
 Kauffmann, J P & Rouleau
 Kersten, Sarah
 Klnd, Judith
 Kittleson, Norm & Sharon
 Kline, George & Ginna
 Kluender, Tim & Geraldine
 Kyser, Donald & Johnson, Tari '20
 Land, Marcia J & Gerald

Landrigan, Robert & Elaine
 Laske, Lyle & Francine
 Love Judy
 Masek, John in memory of Miles Masek
 Masek, John in memory of Leonard Beckel
 Masek, John in memory of Ron Kersten
 Masek, John
 McArdle, Pat & Eunice
 McFarland, Marcia & Tim
 Meier, ML & Miller, VA
 Mills, Bil
 Molin, Tom & Kaye
 Moore, Bill
 Myhre, Linda & David
 Nemzek, Jim
 Nemzek, John
 Nevins, Rollie & Kathy
 O'Neil, Patty & Brooks
 Paulson, Tim

Pederson, Bill
 Persellin, Scott
 Stell Trust
 Rance, Marlene
 Richardson, Ann
 Ryan, Ronadl & Colleen
 Sauer, D J
 Sauer, Dave & Deb
 Sierk, Carole
 Smith, Daniel & Norita
 Smith, Robert K & Maryin memory of Ron Kersten
 Stacey, Mike & Kaye
 Stevens, Judy in memory of Thomas Stevens
 Swenson, Michelle & Brett
 Thomsen, Roy & Stacy
 Topp, Rodney Debra
 Walker, Jef & Kathryn
 Wolff, Dennis & Linda
 Zawacki, Jim & Linda

Thank you!

Support your lake – volunteer for a committee

BMLA Board of Directors

General duties and responsibilities (2/2020)

- Commit to a 4year term.
- Attend and participate in 2 Board and 2 General Membership meetings per year.
- Organize social events/meetings sponsored by BMLA. (Set up, Cleanup etc.).
- Monitor/ review Budget, approve expenditures.
- Assist in developing Meeting Agenda items.
- Assist in BMLA Website Development and content.
- Review and provide feedback on draft meeting minutes, membership issues, and proposals etc. via E-mail.
- Promote BMLA and recruit lake residents to increase membership.
- Respond to Members questions, concerns and suggestions.
- Provide information for the Aerie newsletter.
- Establish annual goals for BMLA.
- Support Loon committee, AIS donation process, Restore the Shore, sell BMLA merchandise.
- Work with Hubbard County COLA, MN DNR and other agencies/organizations in support of BMLA Mission Statement and AIS initiative.

AIS Coordinator needed

We are looking for someone to take over the AIS Coordinator role that Jim Nemzek has been filling for several years. As recent events show, this is a very important task for our lake association. Below is a list of responsibilities of the position. The AIS coordinator works with the board and other lake volunteers to accomplish some of these responsibilities. Please consider helping out for the good of our lake and let any board member or Jim know of your interest.

Responsibilities of BMLA AIS Coordinator

- Get approval from BMLA board for inspections expense and request check from treasurer to pay Hubbard County.
- Generate and mail AIS letter to BMLA membership
- Communicate with four township boards to request money for inspections and

report results to them – follow up on due dates.

- Determine schedule for boat inspections with Hubbard County AIS
- Attend COLA meeting if possible, especially when AIS procedures are being determined
- Provide AIS information to resort owners and encourage support for AIS efforts
- Participate in Rapid Response Plan in coordination with Hubbard County AIS and DNR.
- Assure that sampling occurs on Mantrap for AIS
- Sample vegetation using rake at all public accesses and resorts
- Be reporting point for any lake residents who have concrete blocks or other sampling for Zebra mussels or other AIS.
- Awareness of veliger sampling.

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.

Fun Facts about Big Mantrap Lake

Big Mantrap Lake – Ice In (date when south basin freezes over)

[FHTTSP://WWW.DNR.STATE.MN.US/ICE_IN/INDEX.HTML](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ice_in/index.html)

- 2019 ice in date: November 12
- Median ice in date: November 27
- Earliest ice in date: November 11, 2018
- Latest ice in date: December 9, 2016, Period of record: 1977 to 2019

Big Mantrap Lake Data

[HTTPS://WWW.DNR.STATE.MN.US/ICE_IN/INDEX.HTML](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ice_in/index.html)

- Area: 1617.69 acres
- Littoral Area: 849.45 acres
- Shore Length: 26.3 miles
- Mean Depth: 17 feet
- Maximum Depth: 68 feet
- Fish Species: black bullhead, black crappie, bluegill, brown bullhead, hybrid sunfish, largemouth bass, muskellunge, northern pike, pumpkinseed, rock bass, smallmouth bass, tullibee (cisco), walleye, yellow bullhead, yellow perch, shorthead redhorse, white sucker, banded killifish, blacknose shiner, bluntnose minnow, brook stickleback, central mudminnow, golden shiner, Iowa darter, Johnny darter, spottail shiner

Forever a Mantrapper

KAREN REMUND (September 14, 1938 - September 29, 2019). Karen lived at Trails End Lodge on Mantrap. Her obituary can be found in the Park Rapids Enterprise and at <https://www.ceasefuneralhome.com/obituaries/Karen-Miller-Remund?obId=7959922>

Barb Fischer
618 W Soutar Drive
Bloomington IN 47403

