

August 22, 2020 Big Mantrap Lake Association Meeting

No decision has been made about holding an in-person meeting in August. Please let any board member know your opinion on the advisability of holding this meeting.



Eurasian Watermilfoil
Growing horizontal on surface



THE Aerie

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF THE BIG MANTRAP LAKE ASSOCIATION



Eurasian Water Milfoil (the aquatic invasive species) on the left, Common Coontail on the right. Common Coontail is one of the most common aquatic plants in the world. Native to North America, it is beneficial to the environment.

Eurasian Water Milfoil in Mantrap

RICH HALVORSEN, ACTING AIS COORDINATOR

On the week of June 21 I met up with the DNR's Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist for three days of surveying and hunting for Eurasian Water Milfoil in the West Arm based on the confirmed sample found last fall near the main launch.

Despite what the Park Rapids Enterprise published last year we were **not** a confirmed lake with infestation. When a sample of something is found it kicks off a process that includes confirming if it is even present but also how extensive and how treatable the infestation is, if it is found at all. This could not happen until the plants grow up in the spring enough to be found, which for these is late June.

Our surveying was focused on the West Arm due to the location where the sample was found. We spot checked the entire arm and found no signs of it. We then conducted a much more focused survey from the upwind side (northwest) of the find down to the area surrounding the boat launch.

Unfortunately directly off the launch dock we found some small clumps and confirmed it was present and growing in Mantrap. Further surveying the area around it we believe it is confined to the edge area of the sand around the ramp. It would make sense that the most likely scenario is of a small piece lost in a boat trailer or on a hull that fell off upon reaching the water. The disturbed ground from boats powering on and off trailers left a bare space for it to take root.

The number of plants was so small that our Invasives Specialist elected to pull as many as she could find while scuba diving so as to try to aid in preventing the spread. With the boat traffic the largest risk is stirring up the plants by props and waves encouraging them to spread further.

EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

As the Lake Association, we now need to decide what we want to do with this knowledge. There is nothing saying we have to do anything and with that there is no financial assistance from the state for treating it.

I can field any photos and finds and relay them to the DNR if we suspect anything. IF YOU SEE ANYTHING UNUSUAL SNAP A PHOTO AND EMAIL / TEXT OR CONTACT RICH HALVORSEN 612-245-9391, rich.halvorsen@gmail.com and he can coordinate what to do next. Thank you!!

Over the course of the winter and spring the lake association board took to investigating more about the treatment options and agreed that if we treated we should coordinate with the

treatments on Bad Axe and look for any way to save money by working together with them. (Note: for anyone who wasn't aware Bad Axe confirmed Eurasian Water Milfoil a couple of seasons ago, and while it might be an easy target to blame for ours the DNR said the plant spread in Mantrap appears to be around the same age and likely came in around the same time as theirs did)

More recently the board agreed on a strategy with a three tiered approach to AIS. In addition to continuing to fund the boat inspectors to the full scheduled hours the board voted to treat the area

directly around the boat launch this summer with the hopes that it is indeed contained there and to try and confine it to that area as much as possible. There is not an eradication

option. This should cost us no more than \$2,000 and the minimum effective treatment size is around one acre. Hubbard County may also be able to assist us, but if not this money will come out of the balance of our AIS fund that we have maintained for something like this. The downside is that to maintain this we will have to expect this expense annually and add it to the cost of the boat inspection hours.

We are promoting an eyes on the water approach this summer. As the plants thrive we are coming up on the time where the milfoil shows its most distinctive characteristic: laying across at the water's surface (see adjacent photos). Now that we know it is here we ask that everyone keep their eyes open for anything unusual that resembles these photos. We want to find it if it has traveled from the boat launch to anyplace else. With as much lake and vegetation as there is this is going to be the most effective way to know if we're keeping it in check.

Finally I'd like to reiterate that this is not as alarming as it may sound. We are fortunate to have a lake with a very healthy native plant population that is not going to let some other weed walk all over it. Its sparsity and lack of open spaces to spread won't allow it to become the burden it can become on more southern lakes or in ecosystems where the native vegetation is already struggling. I have been pointed to many lakes where it's *just in there somewhere* and no one gives it a second thought. I believe we are going to be one of those lakes.



Letter from the Prez

RICH HALVORSEN

When the year is over I'd like to propose we retire a few phrases... "Unprecedented", "New Normal", "Uncertain Times" just to name a few. Thanks to 2020 change seems more concerning than ever before.

In the fire service we have a saying "200 years of tradition unimpeded by progress", and while I try to be a *little bit more* embracing of change than that, it is easy tucked away up here to want to keep your friends, neighbors, and the lake itself free of change as long as you can.

Sure as the old adage goes "Change is the only constant in life" 2020 brings us to a new chapter with our precious lake. Our first aquatic invasive species (AIS) has been confirmed in the form of Eurasian Water Milfoil and I know many including myself found this news very unsettling. However after many, many

hours of discussing and learning I can safely say that this is not as bad as it may seem and that our efforts and your donations have not failed you.

I also want to underscore the importance that we continue to raise funds for our AIS activities and not overreact to what, quite frankly, is about the best infestation scenario to have. We still are free of much worse invasives and the boat traffic coming into Mantrap continues to grow. We have not lost the battle as much as we have simply entered the next chapter for AIS, controlling what we do have while preventing the spread of anything else. Check out the AIS article for the full details on the find and the board's response.

As time marches on we also have lost some other long time Mantrappers along the way. Some of them have

played big parts in getting us this far in conserving our lake which we have all come to love to this day. We are very fortunate to have new neighbors and other Mantrappers join us and step up to help continue to carry the cause. And (shameless plug) we're always looking for more!

As I write this looking over the lake, connected online via my cell phone, that allows me to work and live up here more than ever this spring I have decided it only fair that I forgive my grudge at the cell phone tower that dots our horizon. It has allowed me more time this year to be here than ever before.

Maybe not all change is so bad in the end.

Big Mantrap Lake Notes – Spring 2020

2020 ice out date and comparison to norms

MN DNR ice out dates for Big Mantrap Lake:

Big Mantrap Lake – Ice Out (date when South Basin is open)

2020 ice out date: April 25

2019 ice out date: April 25

Median ice out date: April 25

Earliest ice out date: April 7, 2017

Latest ice out date: May 7, 2008

Sample years: 1983 to 2020

This information is available at <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/ice.html?id=29015100>

Note from Doug Kingsley, CNR Fisheries to Burney Fischer:

We had an interesting occurrence this winter. After some pretty good fishing for Crappies in the usual location around and north of Cokes Island early in the winter, later we heard reports of no fish. We checked dissolved oxygen levels and they were very low. We've never heard of that before, but we've never checked it before either. Anglers were still doing well in other locations, so it looks like it was just confined to that one area.

Link to a Muskie story "*What are muskies eating in Miltona? Local lake part of Minnesota diet study on four major game fish*" <https://www.inforum.com/sports/outdoors/5040992-What-are-muskies-eating-in-Miltona-Local-lake-part-of-Minnesota-diet-study-on-four-major-game-fish#.XphpMhuYweM.email>

Big Mantrap Lake Citizen Lake Monitoring Program data is available for 2019

<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/advanced-citizen-lake-monitoring-program-clmp>

At the website search for Big Mantrap Lake, you can access the Annual Data Summary for 2019 as well as a Water Quality Assessment and Transparency Trends for each of 8 sites we monitor on BML (South Basin, East Basin, Middle Basin (Lady Slipper, Eagle & Deadhead Bays), Home Bay, West Arm-Lower and West Arm). The 2019 Data Summary includes Secchi Transparency data (feet), User Perceptions of Physical Appearance and Recreational Suitability – both rated on 1 (Excellent) to 5 (Poor) scales. For example the South Basin has the following statistics for the three categories – 22 weekly samples were taken throughout the season, the mean Secchi reading was 13.82' and the range of Secchi readings was from a minimum of 9' to a maximum of 18.5' for 2019.

2019 Site summary statistics

	Count	Mean	Min	Max
Secchi Transparency data (ft):	22	13.82	9	18.5
Physical appearance:	22		2	3
Recreational suitability:	22		1	1

The other two reports are more long term analyses. The Water Quality Assessment shows that Big Mantrap Lake's nutrient richness falls between Oligotrophic (low nutrients) and Mesotrophic (medium nutrients). The Transparency Trends (1980-2019) shows no identifiable water clarity trend (i.e. transparency has stayed the same for the past 40 years!).

AIS Watercraft Inspection results 2019

<http://cms6.revize.com/revize/hubbardcounty/2019%20End%20of%20Season%20Data%20Final.pdf>

Minutes

BMLA Board Meeting Summer 2020

Meeting held 6/25 at Rich Halvorsen's cabin respecting social distancing and facemasks by all members. Members present: Jim Zawacki, Linda Zawacki, Barb Fischer, Rich Halvorsen, Jim Nemzek, and Kathy Nevins.

Three Agenda Items with reports as follows:

1. Evaluation by DNR of possible AIS infestation: President Rich Halvorsen spent several days this week with the DNR folks completing an evaluation of the possible infestation of Eurasian Watermilfoil in the lake. Unfortunately, this has been confirmed by the DNR. It appears to be confined at this point to an area just outside the state boat launch. Multiple spot checks throughout the balance of the west arm revealed no other infestations; Rich and DNR representative Nicole spent some time scuba-diving through the infestation and literally pulled up by the roots every plant they could locate; this will prevent it from getting caught in propellers and being spread throughout the lake; this is the same invasive species found in Bad Axe Lake; we are able to "tag team" with PLM, the chemical treatment company from Brainerd, to treat ours at the same time as Bad Axe (hoping in the next two weeks); the DNR permitted us to treat 1 acre chemically; We are able to rapidly respond to this, and implement a confinement strategy through chemically treating and mass monitoring. This species is under the water currently, but in August gets quite long and literally lays across the water. Rich will write a more detailed article for the summer Aerie with pictures of what to look for, and most likely a plea for ongoing funding. Unanimous decision to chemically treat the invasion. Rich will sign and return the contract with PLM Land and Land Management Corp to have them chemically treat the area. Information was reviewed from the Hubbard County Environmental Services website, in 2019 at our boat launch 3117 boats were inspected, 400 more than any other lake in the County! 277 of those came from infected waters, 356 from out of state. 12 of those were found to have foreign things on them and were not allowed in and sent for decontamination, 5 had the plugs in and were drained prior to entering the lake.
2. Boat Inspection hours: Our lake had an inspector there 1720 hours last year, 720 of which were paid by the state – the other 1000 were funded by the lake homeowners. The state unexpectedly cut the hours to 504 – of the 216 hours that were cut, 70 of them were in May before we knew about it. The other 146 were in October, mostly throughout the week. If weather is nice, that can be a lot of boats not being inspected. Motion by Jim Z, second by Jim N, unanimous approval to pay an additional \$3066 to cover that time in October. Treasurer Linda will take the check to County Coordinator Nick Macklam tomorrow, and ask if the County can assist in funding the treatment.
3. Estimate of next year inspection hours: The county is asking us to estimate the hours we intend to have boat inspectors at the launch for 2021, not knowing how much funding the state will provide. Unanimous decision to communicate to the County that we intend to have the same coverage of 1720 hours next year. We anticipate this to be at a cost to the BML homeowners of approximately \$19,200.
4. Rich agreed to act as Interim AIS Coordinator, and Jim N was happy to pass on his files. Thank you Jim for your many years of service to our Lake in this capacity. Jim has agreed to stay on as a board member.
5. We briefly discussed possible new board members with no new names mentioned.

Treasurer's Report

LINDA ZAWACKI

Hello from the Treasurer, Linda Zawacki. We transitioned from Barb Fischer to Linda in May after the Board made some reorganization decisions last fall. The transition was made at the same time as the move from manual/Excel spreadsheet record keeping to QuickBooks – non profit. Our current balances are AIS, \$25,821.75; General including Loon Fund, \$16,483.06.

If anyone wants detailed information please contact me at lzboutique@comcast.net, 651-246-3844. My address is on the payment form included on this newsletter. Please remember to mail your dues, AIS, or other checks to the new address.

BIG MANTRAP LAKE ASSOCIATION AIS FUND			
Proposed Budget 2020			
	actual	actual	Budget
	2018	2019	2020
Balance Forward January 1	\$29,108.62	\$36,598.77	\$39,903.40
Income			
Contributions - personal	\$19,375.50	\$17,185.00	\$18,000.00
Contributions - Thorpe Twp	\$250.00	\$250.00	
Refund overpayment - Hubbard County			
Interest Income	\$56.15	\$82.63	\$50.00
Total income	\$19,681.65	\$17,517.63	\$18,050.00
Disbursements			
Hubbard County AIS	\$12,191.50	\$14,015.00	\$14,720.00
Jim Nemzek - AIS letter Expenses		\$198.00	\$200.00
Total Disbursements	\$12,191.50	\$14,213.00	\$14,920.00
Balance	\$36,598.77	\$39,903.40	\$43,033.40

BIG MANTRAP LAKE ASSOCIATION GENERAL FUND - INCLUDING LOON FUND				
Proposed Budget 2020				
	2018	2019	Budget 2020	2/27/2020
Balance Forward Jan 1	\$12,725.62	\$13,118.60	\$15,702.07	
Income				
Dues & Newsletters	\$1,855.00	\$1,920.00	\$1,900.00	
Miscellaneous sales	\$155.00	\$148.00	\$100.00	
Interest	\$9.07	\$14.18	\$15.00	
Donations		\$100.00		
Restore the Shore	\$108.00	\$52.50		in/out
Subtotal General	\$2,127.07	\$2,234.68	\$2,015.00	
Loon Fund contributions	\$625.00	\$2,000.00	\$500.00	
Loon Fund Memorials	\$460.00	\$1,075.00	\$500.00	
Loon Fund sales		\$370.00	\$200.00	
Loon platform sales	\$300.00	\$525.00	\$200.00	
Subtotal Loon	\$1,385.00	\$3,970.00	\$1,400.00	
Total	\$3,512.07	\$6,204.68	\$3,415.00	
Expenses				
Loon exp	\$1,537.11	\$1,900.61	\$2,000.00	
Loon boat motor purchase				
Subtotal - loon	\$1,537.11	\$1,900.61	\$2,000.00	
Lake maintenance expenses			\$800.00	new buoy markers
AIS expenses - fundraising				
Hubbard County COLA (water test)	\$328.00	\$367.86	\$461.00	
Communication - Aerie, letters, directories	\$497.84	\$707.24	\$600.00	
Meeting expense	\$175.00	\$345.00	\$500.00	
BML History expense	\$100.14		\$200.00	
Hubbard Cola membership	\$368.00	\$248.00	\$340.00	
Cost of RTS trees	\$113.00	\$52.50		
Office supplies & expenses, incl software			\$1,000.00	software
Cost of items to sell				
Subtotal - general	\$1,581.98	\$1,720.60	\$3,901.00	
Total	\$3,119.09	\$3,621.21	\$5,901.00	
Balance December 31	\$13,118.60	\$15,702.07	\$13,216.07	
Loon Balance December 31	\$1,590.62	\$3,660.01	\$3,060.01	

2020 Loon Notes

The first week in December, Ron H, Arlys, Warren and Barry harvested bulrushes. Job made difficult by slush atop the ice.

Ordered one type A raft in December. Cost up to \$650 vs \$270 last year!

Due to Coronavirus pandemic, we worked in small groups to prep platforms. Warren and Arlys did 6 rafts on April 6. St Cloud failed to complete the Birch Bay raft before the governor closed school. Jim and Barry completed the raft prep on April 7.

Most of the lake west of the narrows open April 22, but stubborn ice in river held us back. Warren and Arlys put out Pine Bay raft on April 23. Ice finally left on April 25.

Arlys, Jim, Bill Mills and Barry placed the rest of the rafts on 4/25.

Placed an experimental raft just north of the narrows. Loons used it, 2 eggs

Jim and Barry placed six markers 5/5; remainder 5/14

5/6 first egg of the year at Porcupine.

Osprey moved to a natural nest toward shore from platform. Goose forced Lower deadhead to relocate 40 yards to the north.

5/19 Bad day on loon patrol; Lady Slipper west: predated; Mirror bay: predated; Lower Deadhead: predated and camera didn't work to capture it; Osprey: no eggs on natural nest; No nesting activity at Steamboat; Pine Bay: loons didn't return to nest after fish line fiasco. Loons were not on several of the nests tending eggs this morning. The black flies are about as bad as we have ever seen. Most of the nests west of the narrows only sitting on eggs at night.

5/20 Loons were once again absent from eggs at River, Home Bay, Mud flats, Dead Island, Hoodoo and Pine Bay.

5/22 received \$50 donation from Len Pratt.

5/25 We measure 30 yds of fireline fishing line that was tangled up in rescued loon. Hoist finally sitting.

In early May, Steve counted 50 loons on our outing.

5/30 Had renest, 1 egg at Mirror Bay; Renest 1 egg south side of Dead Island; back on nests at Pine Bay, Loon Bay, Osprey. Nest building at lower Deadhead and west side of upper Deadhead.

6/3 New natural nest at narrows, 2 eggs predated; sitting at lower Deadhead; Renest at Mud Flats;

Lots of nesting activity during June. As of 6/28 we have had 23 chicks hatch, about 12 eggs still to hatch.

Loon volunteers did our loon count on Friday 7/10. We found 22 juveniles and 74 adult loons on the lake. We did the count with nine counters in five boats – we kept our distance due to the virus.

Minutes

BMLA Board Meeting Spring 2020

Meeting held 5/16 outside Jim and Linda Zawacki's firepit respecting social distancing. Members present: Jim Zawacki, Linda Zawacki, Barb Fischer, Rich Halvorsen, and Kathy Nevins.

1. General Membership meeting previously planned for 6/13/2020 – discussion regarding how to hold the meeting due to coronavirus pandemic. Options included a virtual meeting, a special Aerie edition, or to cancel the meeting. Decision made to have a special Aerie edition. Kathy to send an email to the membership advising the meeting will be canceled and to watch for the Aerie.
2. Special Aerie topics: current treasurer's report, Spring Board Minutes, propose 2 new board members, indicating that they are appointed unless members respond negatively.
3. Board Reorganization effective May 2020 :
 - a. Rich Halvorsen – President, website/Facebook administrator, Historian. Back up Quick Books Pro – access to edit.
 - b. Jim Zawacki – Vice President, assistant website administrator, assistant Historian, back up Treasurer, content to Aerie.
 - c. Linda Zawacki – Treasurer. Quick Books Pro has been purchased, Linda has imported the data; board members have the ability to review.
 - d. Kathy Nevins – Secretary, merchandise sales, Restore the Shore Coordinator.
 - e. Barb Fischer – Board Member, Aerie editor.
4. Interested members – Sean McArdle – confirmed by Rich. Dave Livingston – Linda will contact Jim Nemzek who will confirm.
5. Transfer of Treasurer responsibilities – Motion approved to pay \$75 for Intuit online, Barb will write this check. Up to date Treasurers report will be shared in Summer Aerie. Discussion surrounding Budget report and audit with no specific decisions determined at this time. Online banking options will be evaluated on this software, and also on the website platform.
6. AIS infection – a small piece of Eurasian Watermilfoil was found last fall floating by the public boat landing. The DNR has a specific process that must be followed, there is no direct information shared with the lake boards. Rich Halvorsen, Jim Nemzek, and Burney Fischer attended a "run-through" this winter to learn more about the process. Rich Halvorsen will be the contact for Big Mantrap, in the absence of an AIS Coordinator. We plan to coordinate with Bad Axe, and have a contract with PLM Land and Land Management Corp that has not been signed yet. We have until mid-June to commit this contract. We should look for an update from Rich in June or July.
7. Decal/Logo contest – we decided that we will use the one Cindy Hemingway created for the Aerie for now. This can be re-addressed in the future.
8. Bylaws – recognition that they need to be updated, last was done in 2012. Jim Zawacki volunteered to do this over the coming winter.
9. Goals for 2020 – tabled as we need to review the Goals for 2019 and update.

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 Linda Zawacki, 2319 Moreland Court East, Maplewood MN 55119.

July, 2020

Board members

Rich Halvorsen - President, Historian,
Online

Jim Zawacki - Vice President

Linda Zawacki - Treasurer

Kathy Nevins - Secretary,

Merchandise, Restore the Shore

Barb Fischer - Aerie

Jim Nemzek - Board Member

Other program leads

Loons - Barry Guptill

Water Quality - Burney Fischer

Zebra mussel veliger testing - Dave

Myhre

Ice in/Ice out reporting - Sue Ryan

Big Mantrap Lake Association Goals

2019 Goals:

- Develop a Big Mantrap Lake history collection.
Accomplished A large number of documents have been collected. Numerous pictures/documents are currently on the BMLA website. At the 2019 fall general membership meeting/social, there were historical documents, maps and pictures on display. The collection will be scanned and digitally stored.
- Reach out to BML resorts and organizations and invite them to participate.
Accomplished This effort resulted in several organizations contributing to the AIS Fund.
- Revise budget format.
Ongoing This will be carried over to the 2020/2021 goals. Quickbooks by Intuit software for non-profits has been purchased.

2020/2021 Goals:

- Continue to develop and improve BMLA website. Current discussion underway to consider adding additional links. They include: On-line payments, "member only" links, budget/treasurer reports, lake directories (private), merchandise purchases, water qualities reports and related / local websites.
- Complete the transition of budget/treasurer report to the Quickbooks software format.
- Revise BMLA mission statement and by-laws. (The by-laws were revised in 2012). Revision will be discussed with BMLA members.
- AIS: Continue to check, monitor and control.
- Recruit volunteers to be on the BMLA Board and recruit an AIS Coordinator.

Barb Fischer
28538 Junco Drive
Nevis, MN 56467

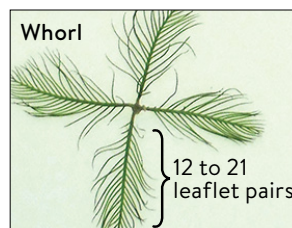
INVASIVE SPECIES



Eurasian Watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

Characteristics:

- Submerged, limp aquatic plant
- Whorls (circles) of four delicate feather-like leaves around stem
- Usually 12 to 21 leaflet pairs per leaf



Forever a Mantrapper

Cheri Dee Martin, died April 13, 2020. Cheri was a long-time resident of Big Mantrap Lake on Mirror Bay until the sale of their property to Michelle and Brett Swenson in 2013. Her obituary can be referenced at <https://www.startribune.com/obituaries/detail/0000353045/>.

Courtney (Corky) Campbell, died June 12, 2020. Summer resident for many years on Jack Pine Lane. This property was sold in October 2018 to William and Megan Pederson. <https://www.reichmuthfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/Courtney-Campbell-2/#!/Obituary>

Helen Marsh, died June 19, 2020 surrounded by her family. Helen was a long-time year round resident of Big Mantrap Lake until a few years ago. She was an active member of the lake association and often a board member. She also served as the Big Mantrap COLA rep for many years. The family has requested any memorials to be given to the Big Mantrap Lake Association in her memory. There was a service held on June 26 in the cities. There may be a celebration here on the lake at a later time.