



Ripples

CROW WING COUNTY
LAKES AND RIVERS ALLIANCE
P.O. BOX 53, PEQUOT LAKES, MN 56472

In This Issue

AIS Reporting with EDDMapS

President's Message

East Twin Lakes Reforestation

Lake-Friendly Awards 2017

Calendar of Events

Loons and Impact of Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill

Real Time Invasive Species Reporting with EDDMapS

By Megan Weber, Extension Educator, University of Minnesota Extension

This year marked the official launch of the AIS Detectors volunteer citizen science program by University of Minnesota Extension and the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center. Over 120 people became certified through the program in a series of workshops and online training held in early 2017. These volunteers are

tasked with using their new set of skills and knowledge to complete at least 25 hours of volunteer service in the world of aquatic invasive species (AIS) each year within the state. Among the new sets of skills is reporting AIS in real-time using a program called EDDMapS, short for Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System.

You don't have to be an AIS Detector to use EDDMapS though! Anyone can sign up for an account and report invasive species (both aquatic and terrestrial) using this system. EDDMapS uses species and location information from reports to send the information you submit directly to the inbox

of the person in the state responsible for verifying new infestations of that particular species in that particular region.

You can sign up for an EDDMapS account at eddmaps.org/midwest. There is also an app available for smartphone and tablet users that uses the EDDMapS reporting system called Great Lakes Early Detection Network (GLEDN). You can use your same login information from EDDMapS to access the app. Because the two operate on the same system, your information is automatically synced no matter if you are reporting from a mobile device or your computer.



Photo by Dan Larkin, MISARC

Continued on page 2

President's Message

By Mike O'Brien

Summer is rapidly coming to an end. After Labor Day a lot of folks close their cabins until Memorial Day when the "summer season" once again draws people back to the Brainerd Lakes area. Of course, there is a significant number of us who have chosen to live up here year round. There is plenty to do year round in this area of the state. Hiking and biking and fishing in the fall. Skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling and ice fishing are all things Minnesotans enjoy doing in the winter.

Good things are happening locally. Carla White and Leah Heggerston, representing the National Loon Center, attended our August LARA board meeting. They have received funding from the University of Minnesota's Central Region Sustainable Development Partnership and the National Joint Powers Alliance Board along with support from the Initiative Foundation to do a marketing and feasibility study. Their long-range goal is to have a physical building for a National Loon Center on Army Corps of Engineers property near the dam in Crosslake. Organizers also wish to start a Freshwater Institute in coordination with the National Loon Center. It will be an \$8 million dollar project. 501c3 status is pending from the IRS and they recently launched a website. To find out more about this project you can contact the National Loon Center at 35770 Allen Ave, Suite 1, Crosslake, MN 56442. Telephone: 612-845-5030. Email: tcwhite@crosslake.net or fishes@crosslake.net. On the web: nationallooncenter.org.

LARA represents over thirty lake associations in Crow Wing County. We are here to help our members in several areas including but not limited to AIS education and providing speakers for meetings. We administer the CWEPA grant process, which contributes approximately

Continued on page 2

EDDMapS

Continued from page 1

Reporting is easy no matter which device you use. You just need to select the species you think you've found, the date and time you found it, where it was that you found it, and attach some photos. If you are using a smartphone or tablet to make a report it gets even easier because the app will use the GPS in your mobile device to automatically enter location data. You can also find your location on a map (using either the website or the app) and click to select your location if you aren't making the report from the location you found the suspicious organism.

Good photos are the key to making a useful report. Be sure to check that your photos are sharp and in focus before submitting them. Using a solid background for the images such as a blank piece of paper will also help ensure nice, clear images. It's also useful to include common objects like a coin or ruler to help show the actual size of what you are photographing. Finally, if you are taking photos on a phone or tablet, avoid using the zoom feature. Photos taken using this digital zoom tend to be grainy and difficult to see. Instead, take as clear of a photo as possible without zoom and if needed, the person viewing the report can crop and zoom the image on their computer if they need to. You can attach up to 5 images to the report – we recommend that these photos minimally include the following types:

1. A photo of the entire plant or animal
2. A close-up of any identifying features you may see (for example, leaf arrangement)
3. An image including a coin or ruler for scale
4. An image of the area where you found the specimen

More tips and tricks can be found on the EDDMapS website. There is also information about invasive species identification, distribution, and DNR's infested water list, so take some time to explore. Additional information about how to use EDDMapS can be found on the website as well, or if you are interested in becoming an AIS Detector and getting some in depth training you can learn more at aisdetectors.org. 🦋

President's Message

Continued from page 1

\$2,500–\$3,000 per year to land and water conservation projects happening in Crow Wing County; LARA contributes \$200–\$300 per year to support the annual Lake-Friendly Development Awards, which recognize ecologically sound development alternatives on riparian properties in the region; we dedicate approximately \$100 each year from the LARA budget to support the selection of a Water Warrior Award winner; LARA supports the activities of the Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR), which lobbies for statewide lake interests in St. Paul; and we also support MNCOLA, a statewide COLA/LARA collaborative created to give COLAs and LARAs greater influence on statewide lake issues.

We usually hold an annual meeting in August and invite our member associations to attend and hear what has been happening in these areas and usually have a speaker to address issues of concern. This year we decided to forego an annual meeting and use email, our website and newsletters to get the message out to our members. Let us know what you think about this approach. Contact information can be found at crowwinglara.org/contact-us. Have a great fall and winter! 🦋

East Twin Lake Association Reforestation Project

By Tom Adams

Background – As the expanded Highway 371 project moved to reality, the East Twin Lake Association (ETLA) recognized that the impact to existing trees between the highway and the Lake would be dramatic. As a group, we began to make plans on how best to address this change. MNDOT and the DNR advised that, while monies were budgeted to provide replanting of

trees, those funds would not be available for several years and would consist of planting seedlings. ETLA began to consider an alternative plan.

Alternative Plan – After several meetings, the ETLA Board put forth a proposal to the full Association to raise funds to accelerate the project dramatically. We wanted to plant approximately 100 trees with some

size along the open corridor between the lake and the expanded highway. With this in mind we asked each property around the lake to contribute \$100 toward the project. Around the same time, we were advised of the CWEPA matching funds opportunity. The result was astounding. CWEPA awarded us a \$3,000 grant. Our lake residents donated over \$7,600, providing us with over \$10,600 for the project. 82% of our owners participated and in a number of cases, owners' children or relatives participated.

Implementation – Purchasing and planting were the next steps. We decided to plant a mix of deciduous and pine trees which,



Continued on page 5

14th Annual Lake- and River-Friendly Awards

By Phil Hunsicker

On June 15th, LARA participated in the 2017 Lake- and River-Friendly Awards, which recognized folks from around the region who are trying to be more ecologically aware with their riparian properties along lakes and rivers.

In the 14 years of these awards, (including this year's winners), 61 total projects have been recognized, including 10 home construction projects, 29 landscaping projects, 7 lake stewardship projects, 2 river stewardship projects, and 21 lake-friendly protection strategy projects.

In addition to LARA, the partners in this venture are:

- Brainerd Lakes Area Audubon Society (BLAAS)
- Crow Wing County Soil and Water Conservation District
- DNR Nongame Wildlife Program
- DNR Section of Fisheries
- Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
- The Nature Conservancy
- University of Minnesota Extension

Seven awards were given out this year. They are excellent examples of how we can all look at our surroundings with a more discerning eye and come up with innovative ideas that provide greater benefit for our environment. Our winners were as follows:

A **Lake- and River-Friendly Protection Strategy Award** went to: Cass County Environmental Services, Cass County SWCD, and specifically Rima Smith-Keprios and the Cass County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Watercraft Inspection Program.



From left, Rima Smith-Keprios, Phil Hunsicker

Beginning in 2014 and every year since then, counties have been given money from the state legislature to do AIS prevention work. It's up to each county to decide how to best spend the money they receive. Cass County was recognized because they have a very comprehensive AIS prevention program. First, they have created great working relationships with the Association of Cass County Lakes (ACCL), individual lake associations, local law enforcement, resorts, fishing tournament organizers, the DNR, The Army Corps of Engineers, and neighboring counties.

Second, they applied for, and received, an AIS Innovation Grant from the Initiative Foundation to do an Enhanced Training Skills Workshop for their 25 or so watercraft inspectors, as well as inspectors from neighboring Beltrami and Clearwater Counties. In addition to the mandatory DNR training, inspectors receive additional training in AIS biology, lake ecology, and how to deal with conflict, which sometimes happens at public accesses.

Third, they funded a survey conducted by Dr. Pat Welle to ask resort owners their opinions about AIS and to find out what actions they were already taking to stop the spread.

And fourth, they partnered with local fishing tournaments to make sure boats and trailers got inspected and, if necessary, decontaminated. Rima did a webinar so others could learn from her positive experiences working with fishing tournaments.

Six Lake- or River-Friendly Landscaping Awards were handed out. The first went to: Charles and Julie Costa who live on Lake Ossawinnamakee.



Judy and Charles Costa

The Costas broke their big lakeshore restoration project into four sections. Separate sections of their shoreline were restored with support from Soil and Water Conservation District grants in 2012, in 2014, and in 2015.

The Costas inherited their lake property, which was built in 1959, and had always had issues with runoff from the roof and had trouble growing grass on the sloping landscape. After considering selling the property a few years ago - and after much objection by their children and grandchildren, who love the lake - they decided to keep the property and do whatever they could to protect the lake and their shoreline.

The grants helped them add two rain gardens and native plants along the shoreline in 2012; a retaining wall and a native plants rain garden to slow down stormwater as it ran down a slope to the lake in 2013; and coir ("koy-er") logs (made of coconut husks) and plants on a third, adjacent section of their shore in 2014. They also received funding in 2015 to add more coir logs and native plants along another section of adjacent shoreline.

Julie Costa has said there are some annual maintenance tasks, like weeding, grass removal and replanting a few plants each year, but the results are effective, beautiful and require less mowing, which means more free time at the lake.

The **2nd Lake- or River-Friendly Landscaping Award** went to: Matthew and Cassandra Seymour.

Continued on page 4

When a failing concrete culvert, which piped 100 ft. of Little Buffalo Creek in Brainerd, started sending truckloads of sediment downstream, the Seymours took action. Working with the SWCD and a DNR design team, they restored the stream to a natural stable state and began rebuilding the ecological community of trees, shrubs, and plants that filter the runoff, hold the bank, and sustain butterflies, birds, bees and more. This project has transformed the site by reconnecting the stream to its natural channel and has stopped an accelerated cycle of erosion and degradation on this stretch of the stream.

The 3rd Lake- or River-Friendly Landscaping Award went to: Contractor, Al DeChantal with DeChantal Excavating.

The project area was once the site of a bottling company built in 1895 to tap the unlimited supply of cold clean water flowing from an artesian well. It was also adjacent to Little Buffalo Creek, a cold-water stream that was channeled through a concrete culvert. The area was



Al DeChantal

used as a crossing to the plant for more than 50 years. DeChantal Excavating worked in difficult conditions and under challenging timelines to complete this project. Working in the stream, they contained contaminated soil and water. They demolished and removed the culvert. And they worked well with partners to get the job completed.

The 4th Lake- or River-Friendly Landscaping Award went to: Lee and Ellen Uglem who live on Serpent Lake.



Ellen and Lee Uglem

In 2014, Lee and Ellen began to lead by action, and not just by words. They tackled a shoreline restoration project on their own property. The restoration included an 80' x 40' buffer adjacent to Serpent Lake. The buffer consisted of 150 plant plugs, 60 shrubs, an

erosion control blanket, and they planted aquatic plants within the rock rip-rap.

The Uglems did a majority of the work themselves. Lee Uglem has also been a great leader in the Serpent Lake Targeted Watershed project, which is a \$1.2 million dollar Clean Water Fund Project. His leadership has assisted with a large stormwater project in the City of Deerwood, Lake ALUM Treatment Project in City of Deerwood, and adoption of stormwater ordinances for the Cities of Crosby and Deerwood.

He has gone above and beyond to inspire others to do similar projects on their own properties. For example, he volunteered his time and supplies to help water the Deerwood stormwater

project. This included: a lake pump, hoses, water sprayers, and his time to go out daily and water the project.

He has attended countless city council meetings and lake association meetings. He is great example of local leadership that is making a difference.

The 5th Lake- or River-Friendly Landscaping Award went to:

Faith and Phil Shaw who live on Portage Lake.



Phil Shaw

The Shaw project was completed in the summer of 2014 after a winter that produced a large ice ridge on their shoreline. The bank was regraded to a slope that could be planted.

The entire shoreline was restored with

only a small path for a dock and a sitting area. The plants have established well at this site and the bank is stable and has survived several winters without ice heave damage.

The 6th Lake- or River-Friendly Landscaping Award went to:

The Sibley Lake Association and the City of Pequot Lakes.



Nancy Malecha

The Sibley Lake Association partnered with the City of Pequot Lakes Park Commission and the City Council to restore sections of the shoreline within the Sibley Lake Park in Pequot Lakes. The project was part of ongoing efforts to reduce the phosphorus level in Sibley Lake.

They preserved the existing cover and also seeded the exposed soils with a native upland dry prairie mix and savanna mix. Native shrubs will be planted in the restored areas and along the shoreline. The project improved the stormwater infiltration and filtration by removing the steps off of a 60-foot bluff and they relocated the fishing pier. Also, the project repaired the drainage from the park into the lake by reshaping the gullies that had formed and adding erosion fabric to prevent further erosion. They further rehabilitated the walking paths to minimize erosion and provide filtration.

Fifty-seven people attended the awards presentation, which also featured a talk about Minnesota loons by Carrol Henderson of the DNR Nongame Wildlife Program. Carrol's presentation on how MN loons have been impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico can be viewed in its entirety on the BAELN YouTube site.

If you have any neighbors or friends who have developed their riparian properties with an ecological ethic, please contact one of the partner organizations as we are always looking for worthy projects to recognize and hold up as examples for others. 🐾

Reforestation

Continued from page 2

hopefully, are relatively deer resistant. As we arranged to purchase the trees, Erik Eithreim, an Eagle Scout candidate, who summers on East Twin with his family contacted us and asked if he could manage the planting project. We quickly accepted his offer. In mid May, Erik and his troop of some 20 Scouts came up and handled the entire placing and planting process. In addition, they installed an automatic watering system. This system has a drip line to each tree, uses two car batteries which are recharged using a solar panel and, of course, draws water from East Twin. It is set to drip water for about 2 hours per day.

Current Results – If you travel along 371 or ride/walk the Paul Bunyan trail, the trees are easily visible. They make a difference now and in a few years will be providing much coverage. As of the end of August, roughly 91-92 of the trees appear to be healthy. Of the trees that didn't survive, most seem to be in the pine family. Happily, we have sufficient funds remaining to permit replacements to be made either later this fall or in the spring. In addition, we will likely purchase seedlings in the spring from the DNR to "fill" in along the path. Bottom line, all of us on East Twin Lake are delighted with the project. We thank CWEPA and our East Twin neighbors for helping make this project such a success. 🐦



Sleeping quarters for the Boys Scouts involved in the project.

Calendar of Events

September 7, 2017:

The National Loon Center Freshwater Research Center and Shoreline Restoration/Public Docks Meeting

6:30 to 8:30 pm at Manhattan Beach Lodge

The National Loon Center Foundation needs your help developing a plan for the National Loon Center to enhance Crosslake's economic vitality and to protect our priceless natural resources and wildlife. Please join us in developing a master plan that creates a community asset for generations to come. The National Loon Center project team, including the University of Minnesota's Center for Sustainable Building Research, will introduce the project and background research, solicit community member input and ideas and outline next steps..

September 13, 2017:

Join us on campus at Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) for a day full of informative talks, hands-on demos, lab tours, and more. Be sure to join us for a post-event reception featuring a dozen posters on additional MAISRC research that's being conducted by postdocs, graduate students, and research assistants.

Click here to see the [schedule for the day](#), and here to read a [description of each breakout session](#).

Minnesota Loons and Impacts from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill

Following is video link to a presentation by Carrol Henderson of the MN DNR. <https://youtu.be/JcFmCOSYAp4> 🐦

LARA Board Of Directors 2016-2017

Ann & Tom Beaver
218-568-5904
beaver@uslink.net

Nick Bernier
mnarrows@hotmail.com

Jodi Billy
612-875-8084
Jodibilly@comcast.net

Eleanor Burkett (*ex-officio*)
218-828-2326
burke044@umn.edu

Sandy Holm
218-765-3309
rnsholm@brainerd.net

Phil Hunsicker
218-825-9215
phunsicker@q.com

Mike O'Brien
218-764-2666
mikeobriens@gmail.com

Kent Montgomery (*ex-officio*)
218-855-8155.
kmontgomery@clcmn.edu

Officers:

Co-Presidents – Mike O'Brien
Phil Hunsicker

Vice President – Sandy Holm

Secretary – Ann Beaver

Treasurer – Ann Beaver

Webmaster and Newsletter Editor
Sharon Herwig, volunteer
CrowWingLARA@gmail.com