



THE SENTINEL

Merilee Meyers, President
Long Lake Association
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Bemidji, MN 56601

THE SENTINEL



Our lake is your lake...help preserve its clarity and tranquility.

www.longlakeassoc.org

Annual Edition 2008

Letter from the President

Merilee Meyers

Once again, it was a lovely summer on Long Lake; long days of warm sun and clear skies with enough rain to keep vegetation lush and green. When the snow and ice finally melted off the lake, our water clarity in May was only 15 feet but once the turbidity settled out, our famous clarity returned. Our September – and final - final Secchi water clarity reading was 25 feet.

Membership is up in the association and events were well-attended, although the number of boats participating in the Fourth of July Boat parade was slightly down from previous years. Many participated in the final event of the summer, the Open-Fire Cook-out at Flann's; delicious food and exceptional desserts! My many thanks to the hosts of association events this summer: Natalie and Pat for hosting the Welcome Back Wine and Cheese; Fred for the use of his beach after the boat parade; Maggie for organizing beverages and treats after the parade; Colleen and Dave hosting our August Gathering/Meeting; and Mariam and Chuck. Details for the Holiday Progressive Soiree are listed below.

To the Executive Committee of the Long Lake Association I extend my gratitude for their support and continued willingness to serve our association. To this Committee, I welcome Jane Carlson, our new Member-at-Large.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind owners of small animals that eagles present a constant real and present danger. Our little dog Suzie disappeared one beautiful sunny September afternoon. As she disappeared within an hour of being let out, the consensus has been that she was taken by an eagle while she was down on the beach area checking for dead fish and other dog-enticing smells. Since then, many have shared similar tales of lost pets. Interestingly, residents of south Minneapolis have also reported the disappearance of small pets. Eagles are present along the river and peregrine falcons roost on tall buildings downtown.

Take care, stay well and travel safe and . . . Happy Holidays to you and yours!

Merilee

Let's Get the Lead Out!

MN Pollution Control Agency

Lead is a toxic metal that, in sufficient quantities, has adverse effects on the nervous and reproductive systems of mammals and birds. Found in most fishing jigs and sinkers, this metal is poisoning wildlife such as loons and eagles.



When lead fishing sinkers are lost through broken line or other means, birds can inadvertently eat them. Water birds like loons and swans often swallow lead when they scoop up pebbles from the bottom of a lake or river to help grind their food. Eagles ingest lead by eating fish which have themselves swallowed sinkers.

A bird with lead poisoning will have physical and behavioral changes, including loss of balance, gasping, tremors, and impaired ability to fly. The weakened bird is more vulnerable to predators, or it may have trouble feeding, mating, nesting, and caring for its young. It becomes emaciated and often dies within two to three weeks after eating the lead.

Use non-lead fishing weights. Inexpensive and ecologically sound alternatives to lead fishing weights are available. Anglers should use sinkers and jigs made from non-hazardous materials such as steel, tin, bismuth and tungsten-nickel alloy.

- Never throw old fishing gear into the water or shore. Discard old lead sinkers and jigs properly. For example, bring them to your local household hazardous waste collection site during your next visit.
- Never put a lead sinker in your mouth or bite down on slip shot—use a pair of pliers instead!
- Always wash your hands thoroughly after handling lead sinkers or cleaning out your tackle box.
- Spread the word. Tell other anglers about the problem, and encourage them to switch to non-lead sinkers and jigs. Talk to your favorite retailers and ask them to stock non-lead fishing tackle.

Kayaking Among the Water Lilies

Carol Hoyem

Kayaking is a great way to explore the nooks and crannies of Long Lake, especially the bay area behind the island. That area is habitat for all kinds of wildlife. This summer I had up close photo opportunities of turtles sunning on a log, assorted birds, a spotted fawn drinking at water's edge, and of special interest to me, water lilies. (Please visit the Long Lake website for wildlife photos. www.longlakeassoc.org)

The white water lilies aroused my curiosity by their disappearance act. One day, when my daughter and I went out kayaking in the mid morning, they were out blooming in all their glory (and me, without my camera.) A few days later, I went out early, (this time with my camera), and there was nary a one to be seen. There were many yellow water lilies, and even a few miniature pink lilies, but no white ones. I thought perhaps they were done blooming for the year, and continued on exploring the bay in my kayak. As the sun rose higher in the



sky, I noticed tightly closed water lilies starting to appear. Within about an hour, they were everywhere in full bloom. Only then did I realize that white water lilies are the type of plant that closes up shop at night (duh.) Anyway, it inspired me to do a bit of research on the web. Here is what I found:

White Water Lily: Also known as fragrant water lily or lily pad, this plant provides excellent habitat for large mouth bass and sunfish. Muskrats like to eat its large stems or rhizomes, and waterfowl eat its seeds. The plant has also been used in traditional medicine. The flower opens in the morning and usually closes in the afternoon.



Spatterdock: Also known as the yellow water lily, pond lily, or cow lily. Provides spawning habitat for fish and food for mammals and waterfowl. Spatterdock blossoms are like yellow globes with red centers. This plant has also been used for medicinal purposes as well as food, dyeing, and tanning leather by several cultures.

Holiday Progressive Dinner Soiree is Sat., Dec. 6, 2008...
Hors d'oeuvres at Jane & Denny Carlson,
Dinner at Pat & Denny Grimes, Dessert at Lynne' Holt....
Call Lynne' Holt at 586-2952
(lkholt@paulbunyan.net) by November 10.

Watch Out For Ticks

Wood ticks take two years to complete their development which explains why we see them in the spring. However, we should be aware of blacklegged ticks (formerly deer ticks) which are present throughout spring, summer, and fall!!!

Click for Tick additional information: www.extension.umn.edu/extensionnews/2008/watchoutforticks.html

Wild Wonders

Jane Carlson

I suppose everyone who chooses to live on this lake and in these woods has some sort of love affair with the animals who live here with us - or we with them would likely be more appropriate. As a transplanted nature rookie in my middle years I can think of little that's more heartwarming than to be so lucky as to catch that glimpse of the doe with her spotted fawn nibbling their way across the grassy spaces in the light of dawn, having slipped from the forest unnoticed. Or watching the hyperactive antics of the little red squirrels as they cavort and chatter and scold in their joy at finding free snacks fallen from the birdfeeder.

There is a porcupine who occasionally graces us with his presence. He is a rather tough looking old fellow whose musky essence remains long after his passing. The midnight frantic meows of the family cat, snuggled for the night in his chair propped before the window, first brought him to my attention. Jumping from bed in a sleep dazed panic, I turned on the outside light and found myself staring eye to beady brown



eye with the porcupine straddling the doorpost halfway to his goal of a midnight snack of plastic pine garland perched atop the door. He was not to be intimidated by the interloper. We stared each other down for

a very long time - certainly long enough for me to realize what a rare and wonderful experience I was having with this wild animal of the forest. Now on those occasions when he pops up on our patio uninvited I rumple a paper bag, and he turns and waddles back into the woods but just fast enough to let me know that I really do not have the upper hand. I do so adore that waddle.

Today I anxiously count the days until the mud turtle hatchlings claw themselves from their underground nursery, their little turtle heads peeking from the hole to survey their new world, then little turtle bodies scrambling to the surface pointed in the direction of the water. I know their mother dropped them off on the 4th of July, and I have come to think of myself as their guardian. The year before last we marveled at the coming of a herd of baby snappers in almost the exact spot. Perhaps these babies will be a tad better looking, not that it makes even one iota of difference.

"Heaven walks among us ordinarily muffled in such triple or tenfold disguises that the wisest are deceived and no one suspects the days to be gods." R.W. Emerson

Eagles vs Pets

Blane Klemek, Pioneer Wildlife Editor

Both adult and sub-adult eagles prey on small mammals and fish. Fish is their primary diet. Eagles also feed on carrion. Eagles are not known to target domestic pets as their primary prey, but, like many predators, are opportunistic. There are not too many eagles, nor is there a shortage of natural food.

Eagles and most other raptors are naturally fearful of humans. If you do indeed have an eagle or eagles that are taking advantage of easy prey such as small domestic pets, then by all means do not let your pets outdoors alone, or at all. If you do allow your pets outside, provide your pets with a safe place to be, like a completely enclosed kennel.

Eagles can descend rather quickly, but their normal method of capturing a fish, for example, is a fairly long flight and grasping the fish from near the surface of the water on the fly. Eagles have also been known to capture waterfowl from the air. They will also swoop to the ground from a preferred perch in order to capture unaware prey.



Eagles, hawks, and falcons are diurnal hunters, and, as you know, most owls are nocturnal. The great horned owl is a species of raptor that is known to capture domestic cats that are prowling around at night. Diurnal species are typically more active at dawn and dusk.

I am not aware of eagles and other raptors vocalizing prior to their initial attack. Stealth is key to their ability to capture live prey. They don't normally want to give their presence away.

Most eagles in the Northland migrate south, but not very far. Many of them congregate around open water of the Mississippi River in southeastern Minnesota where they can feed on fish. During mild winters, which we've had plenty of during the past decade, some eagles will stay. It is my belief that our high deer population enables opportunistic eagles to feed on dead deer along our roadways all winter long, thus helping them survive the wintertime.

All raptors are predators. Prey species are naturally very watchful for predators of all kinds, be the predators birds, mammals, snakes, or whatever. It's the way Nature works. Some hawks, such as sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks, frequent bird feeders because they know these are good places to find food, just like your songbirds know that your feeders are good places to find food. Songbirds aren't likely to be very affected by the presence of an eagle. The risk of getting captured and eaten by a predator is outweighed by their need to eat food, so your birds will always be showing up at your feeders.

Mammalian predators, such as foxes, coyotes, wolves, and bobcats, will also prey on small dogs and cats.

My humble advice is to keep your pets indoors, always. And as far as eagles and other predators go, appreciate them for what they are: predators are vital components of Nature.

SWIMMER'S ITCH

The critter starts out in the intestinal lining of waterfowl, mostly ducks and geese. There are actions you can take:

- STOP if you, or maybe your neighbors, are currently feeding waterfowl (ducks and geese) from your dock.
 - AVOIDANCE...swim from a raft or boat farther out from shore where you are less likely to come into contact with the cercaria.
 - DRY OFF with a towel soon after getting out of the water.
- Valuable, additional information from MN DNR's site: www.dnr.state.mn.us/swimmersitch.html

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Long Lake Association Website
www.longlakeassoc.org

LONG LAKE CLASSIFIEDS

CHRISTMAS TREES

Fred and Pat Pick will be selling Christmas Trees this year. You can choose and cut your own tree or have Fred cut one for you. Available are Scotch, Norway and White Pines plus Balsam Fir. If you are interested in a Long Lake Christmas Tree this year, contact the Picks at 218 586-2617. Trees will be available beginning November 28, 2008 (Prices vary re: type/size of tree.)

REAL ESTATE

Myrle Olson
Sales Executive



Cell: (218) 766-5381
24 Hr. VM: (218) 444-0974
Bus: (218) 444-1021
Res: (218) 586-2934
Fax: (218) 444-2269



Website: www.realtyexecutivesbemidji.com 1499 Anne Street NW
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INFORMATION NEEDED FOR NEW 2009 LONG LAKE DIRECTORY

I am requesting your reply for updating our "2009 Long Lake Directory."

I am adding a bit of history to each person's entry in the new directory. Please provide brief answers to the following:

1. When did you come to Long Lake?
2. And, why...what brought you here?
3. May I list your email address in the new directory?

DEADLINE FOR YOUR INFO IS NOVEMBER 30, 2008. THANKS!

Diane Plath – dplath@paulbunyan.net – 218 586-2672 (9842 Long Lake Dr NE)

Dues are Due

Long Lake Association dues run from August 1 to August 1 of the following year. Take a minute and send your check for \$15.00 to:

Arlene Lee
10338 Long Lake Dr NE
Bemidji MN 56601