

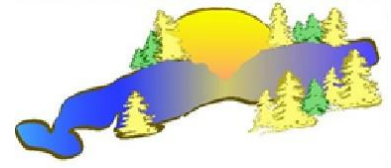
# Lower South Long Lake Improvement Association Newsletter

Web: <http://lowersouthlonglake.com>

Email: [lsll.news@gmail.com](mailto:lsll.news@gmail.com)

Mail list: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LowerSouthLongLake/>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/lsllofficial/>



**Winter 2020**



## **From the President**

*Mike O'Brien*

It's January and it seems like we have had snow since October! 2019 was quite the year weather-wise. Lots of moisture both in the form of rain and snow. Oh well, this is Minnesota!

We have a lot of new residents and members of the lake association. Welcome! We have had a few passing's but most notably John Bosquez. John was a long-time resident and member of the association. His wife Vee was on the original board that started the association. John ran the Kid's fishing contest for years. He also maintained the name sign on Paradise Beach Road. Thank you for all you have done, and may you rest in peace.

For the second year in a row, we were not allowed to treat the curly-leaf pondweed as the DNR would not issue a permit stating there was not enough to treat. Instead the LID paid for 50% of the cost of individual treatments for those that choose to take advantage.

This spring the Upper Lake discovered Eurasian Water Milfoil by their landing. We were notified immediately and began several steps to prevent the spread of the weed to our lake. We hired a company to do a complete survey of the lake to see what we had. So far, no Eurasian Water Milfoil or Zebra mussels or other AIS other than small patches of curly-leaf. Since we have been treating the amount of curly-leaf has declined significantly. We do however have an abundance of naturally occurring weeds in the lake. We will work closely with the Upper Lake Association to combat AIS.

We will have our regularly scheduled association meetings this Spring, May 30, Memorial Day Weekend, June 27 a week before the 4th of July and September 5th on Labor Day weekend. We will have the 4th of July boat parade, also the Kid's Fishing Contest and association picnic, the Kiddie Parade and picnic and Bingo on Labor Day weekend! The dates and times will be decided at our spring meeting.

Please bring a neighbor to our meetings! Get to know the people around the lake and the latest news. Stay safe and warm and we will see you at the Spring Meeting!

## **Executive Committee**

**President:** Mike O'Brien

**Vice President:** Jeff Kierzek

**Secretary:** Arlyce Shook

**Treasurer:** Maribeth Grimsby

## **Committees & Activities**

**Membership:** Jerry Holen

**Communication:** Jerry & Mary Holen

**Bingo:** Stephanie Shook

**Social:** Arlyce Shook

**Picnic:** Glen & Lynn Olson

**Fishing:** Dale Spaulding

**Boat Parade:** Jeff Keirzek

**Kid's Parade:** Natasha Valento family

**Water Quality:** Mike O'Brien

**Water Clarity:** Paul Grimsby

**Aqua Vegetation Management:** LID

## **Area Rep Board Members**

**Wiedel Point:** Larry Christman

**Bay:** Connie Masica

**Cedarleaf Point:** Dale Olshanski

**Mogensen Shores:** Susan Howell

**Lakeside:** Bob Young

**Lone Pine:** Teri Blake

**Paradise Beach Rd:** Paul Grimsby

## **TOWNSHIP OF LONG LAKE**

Patsy Olson, Clerk

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olsonpat@q.com

Chairman Dave Johnson 218-828-1950

Supervisor Thomas Malloy 218-829-2238

Supervisor Darryl Moser 218-829-7046

Treasurer Virginia Smart 218-828-205

## Those Juvenile Loons...

Some of you noticed loons (in large groups) hanging around LSSL in November and were wondering why so late... Following is information about that first year of a loon's life and hopefully provides an answer.

Loon chicks covered in brown-black down appear on

the water in late June or July. Chicks can swim right away, but spend time riding on their parents' backs to rest, conserve heat, and avoid predators such as large fish, snapping turtles, gulls and eagles. After their first day or two of life, the loon family moves to a "nursery" area to raise their young and they do not return to the nest.



Chicks are fed small food items including minnows, insects and crayfish caught by their parents for the first few weeks of life, and up until eight weeks of age, the adults are with them most of the time. Gradually, the chicks begin to dive for some of their own food, and by 12 weeks of age, the chicks are providing almost all of their own food and are able to fly. By the fall, the young are able to look after themselves.

Juvenile loons are in a race against time. While their parents seem to relax following the breeding season — wandering from lake to lake as if on a goodwill tour — juveniles, face a ticking clock. After hatching in June or July, juveniles must reach near-adult size by ten weeks of age, practice takeoffs and landings, and become strong enough to make flights of hundreds of miles on their southward migration in November.



They are racing the ice. Temperatures cool in September, become unpleasantly chilly in October, and truly plummet in November — and lake temperatures follow suit. Ice-up can occur anytime in November, and ice-up is the end of the line for juveniles. Opportunistic bald eagles await juveniles that are not prepared to migrate and become trapped in the ice.

Apparently sensing the desperate task that will confront their offspring in the fall, parents stuff them with fish for eight long weeks in July and August. Chicks grow explosively during mid-summer. But they face their most challenging task in autumn, when parental support wanes and they must learn to feed themselves, improve their body condition, and prepare for their southward journey.

By natural instinct, adults leave the autumn lakes and migrate thousands of miles to the sea. Juveniles, on the other hand, remain on the lakes for a brief time longer. The flocks, which have been forming for weeks, are preparing for the migration south.

How do these young loons know where to go? Bird migration is a wonder of nature, one that is still not fully understood. All loons, motivated by the sum of experiences over millions of years, orient themselves for migration by using the earth's magnetic fields,



landmarks, prevailing winds or any combination, including the sun and stars. An amazing adventure.

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## Clean up that ice litter

- Courtesy of RMB Lakes Program [www.rmbel.info/lakes](http://www.rmbel.info/lakes)

Imagine yourself in a few months when the ice goes out. You're so excited to get your boat in the water and just go for a ride. As you're flying along the lake with the wind in your hair all the sudden you hit a couple 2x4 boards floating on the lake's surface. On another nice April day, you're walking along the lake and see plastic bags, cigarette butts and aluminum cans washing up on shore. What a way to kill the mood!

Each spring, garbage left from ice fishermen washes up on shore and causes unsightly views.



Litter that is left on the ice or shoved down fishing holes does not just go away. It ends up sinking to the bottom of the lake or washing up on shore. Litter at the bottom of the lake disturbs habitat for fish, aquatic insects, and water birds. Monofilament fishing line can wrap around a boat's propeller and get tangled around or

ingested by fish and waterbirds. Cigarette butts contain filters made of a plastic that is slow to degrade. These plastic pieces have been found in the stomachs of fish, birds, and other creatures that mistake them for food. Plastics can take hundreds of years to break down, so any plastic litter may continue to impact habitats year after year.

Litter that floats, such as plastic bags and 2x4 boards, interferes with boating and recreation.

This litter is not only ugly and harmful to aquatic animals, it also costs private homeowners time and money to clean up. It also costs boat owners who wreck their props. Litter is a misdemeanor with a fine of up to \$1,000.

Any kind of litter has environmental, economic and aesthetic impacts. The next time you're out enjoying one of the last days of ice fishing, take a garbage bag with you and clean up any debris you see laying around. Both the human and animal community will thank you.

### ***Ice Shelter Removal - March 2, 2020***

It is unlawful to improperly dispose of garbage on the ice. Please clean up around your shack. What stays on the ice stays in the lake.

### ***Buying a Used Boat Lift?***

**Q: I need a used boat lift for my cabin next spring. What are the rules for moving it to the lake?**

A: To minimize the chance of moving aquatic invasive species (AIS) between lakes, a lift needs to be clean and out of the water for a minimum of 21 days to allow the interior cavities of the lift to completely dry. If it's raining or the cavities are full of debris, 21 days are probably not going to be enough. The longer the better.

**Pro tip:** Buy your lift during the fall or winter from a dealer who understands the risk of AIS. They'll assure the lift is clean, in good working condition, and has dried over the winter. And they can deliver it to your cabin in the spring.

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# The uncertain future of cabins in Minnesota

- by Greta Kaul of MINNPOST

You know it's summer in Minnesota when it's early on a Friday afternoon and northbound traffic on I-35 is backed up out of the Twin Cities and both ways on I-94. Inside the cars are families, fishing poles, coolers, life jackets and other implements for a weekend at the lake.

There are an estimated 124,000 seasonal homeland parcels in Minnesota, according to the Minnesota Department of Revenue, with cabins



making up many of the residences in counties like Cook, Aitkin, Cass, Lake of the Woods, Hubbard and Crow Wing.

In the coming decades, baby boomers in the U.S. are expected to transfer an estimated \$30 trillion in assets to subsequent generations. For many families in Minnesota, that'll include the family cabin.

Or will it?

In their early adulthood, millennials have developed a reputation for being more interested in experiences than ownership. They make less money, on average, than their parents did at the same age, and many are saddled with college debt.

Meanwhile, cabins, once little more than a roof over bunk beds — no electricity and no indoor plumbing — are getting more expensive to buy and maintain. What's more, services like Airbnb and HomeAway have made it easy to rent a cabin for a few days, leaving the maintenance and tax bills to someone else.

Do cabins as we know them have a future in Minnesota?

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## Aging owners

One thing's pretty sure: we're on the precipice of a change in ownership for cabins.

The average lake home or cabin owner in Minnesota today is 68 years old — firmly in the boomer generation, according to a 2016 survey by Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates. That's up from 58 in 1999 and 62 in 2005.

That means the average cabin owner will likely age out of cabin ownership in the next couple decades.

"We are looking at the largest intergenerational transfer of land in the history of the country," said Jeff Forester, the organization's executive director. "What happens to that land is going to be significant."

Many baby boomers opt to move to the cabin full time in retirement. But for an increasing number of families, selling the cabin is a way to pay end-of-life medical bills, Forester says.

For other families, the question is whether the kids and grandkids will want to inherit the property, or, if it goes up for sale, who will want to buy it.

Forester thinks about his family's cabin, a modest log structure his great-grandfather built on an island. It's not fancy, he says — it's got an outhouse — but it's beautiful. The place has hosted family members, Boy Scout troops and many friends over the years.

He was interested in keeping it up and keeping it in the family, but he's not sure if the next generation will be. "I don't know how we're going to work that out," he said.

## Cabins or lake homes?

Cabins like Forester's are increasingly rare in much of Minnesota. "What is fairly common now is that aged housing stock is bought, torn down, and because the value of the property is so high, someone will build a correspondingly high-priced home," said Crow Wing County Administrator Tim Houle.

It's getting to the point where Houle wouldn't exactly call the Brainerd lakes area where he lives and works "cabin country."



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“I don’t think that is what we have, and we haven’t had it for 20 or 30 years,” he said. “These are lake homes.”

Department of Revenue figures show the value of seasonal recreational residential homes, i.e. cabins, increasing at an even faster clip than other types of properties from 2000 to 2006. They dropped during the recession, and have since begun to increase, albeit at a slower than pre-recession pace, again.

“Over the past few decades, lake properties have greatly increased in value, making them harder and harder for the average person to obtain,” wrote Cameron Henkel, co-founder of LakePlace.com, a lake property real estate brokerage, in an email. Despite becoming more expensive, Henkel doesn’t see the dream of having a lake place going away in future generations.

These days, he said, tight supply means there’s not a lot of places available under \$300,000, but the farther you get from metro areas, the more you get for your money.

That varies across the state — with more bigger homes on bigger destination lakes like Gull, Vermilion and Mille Lacs. But with lakeshore property values increasing at a fast clip, the people who can afford to buy lake homes can often afford nice ones. Property taxes for lakeshore properties, likewise, have increased with the value of the homes, making it harder for some to keep up.

That prompts the question: Will millennials, who are currently cash-strapped, even be able to afford second homes like these? If they can, will they even want them?

## Ways to make it work

As time goes on, some families struggle to decide who inherits the cabin. Can one sibling or cousin buy the others out? If not, how to handle joint ownership?

Many families handle the transfer of cabin property from generation to generation by putting it in a trust.

When Kelly Asche, a research associate at the Center for Rural Policy and Development, was surveying property owners, he was shocked at how many homes property tax records showed were in trusts.

This enables multiple family owners to have a stake in the property, and reduces the hassle of property transfer by allowing it to skip the probate process, making it more feasible for multiple

people to own the property and more affordable to maintain it, with costs spread out.

Asche wonders if that will increase as families look for ways to share the cost of owning a home on the lake.

There’s also the question of home-sharing sites, like Airbnb and HomeAway, which enable people to rent homes on the lake. That’s a departure from the traditional cabin ownership, where the place belongs to a family and generally isn’t in use when they aren’t there, but by allowing owners to raise some cash to cover the mortgage, maintenance and taxes it could make cabin ownership possible for some where it otherwise might not be.

Both Houle and Asche said there are a few houses listed on home sharing sites in their areas and wonder if that will increase.

## Buying a cabin

Conor and Madeline O’Phelan, both in their early 30s, bought a cabin about three years ago, before they even bought a single-family home.

Neither grew up in families that owned cabins, but they wanted a place for their friends to congregate, and for their son to grow up at the lake.

When they were in the market for a lake place, the No. 1 thing was affordability, Conor O’Phelan said. It was more a question of how many bunk beds and pull-out couches they could fit into the place than how many square feet it was.

“We do fine, but we’re not from money by any means,” Conor said.

They purchased a small place in the Hayward, Wisconsin, area from its original owners, who built it in the 1970s.

For some millennials, having experiences might mean spending money on trips instead of property. But O’Phelan puts the cabin in the category of experiences.

“We love to spend time with our friends and family, and having a cabin fit that vibe. We wanted a place that was something that we were regularly going to bring our friends to,” he said. “I think one of the things people have to balance out is what you want to do on the weekends. We like going to the same place.”

**MINNPOST** *MinnPost is a nonprofit, nonpartisan media organization whose mission is to provide high-quality journalism about Minnesota*

## Winter Lake Fun

– courtesy of Joe Gross, Scott Schmieg and the Wear family



## And Photos from the Past

- courtesy of Tim Shallbetter, Mike O'Brien and Mellissa Young



Lower South Long Lake Dam - completed 5/22/1937



Busby's store – from the '50s



Ice harvesting on LSLL



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# NEWS & NOTES

## **News in the Neighborhood** - Dianne Bubalo

Hopefully, everyone had a nice Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year - always nice to get together with family and friends.

I'm thinking we have had enough snow for this year and definitely enough rain to go along with the snow. Of course, that rain hinders good lake ice making. Nationwide, we are not alone with that ice situation.

Doesn't seem like much happening in our area - even the bird population isn't what it should be. I'm hearing differing reports about the fishing on our lake - not sure exactly what is happening. We've seen tracks that appear to be wolf or coyote - that leads to some excitement, too.

My brother has put in a walking trail in the woods - what could be more peaceful than that? Of course, until you get the snow packed down the walk is more of a challenge.

Not much happening, I guess - hope the rest of the winter passes in an uneventful way.

\*\*\*\*\*

1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 – the number of snowflakes that fall each winter worldwide...

*Goodbye to our lake friends with condolences to the families of –*

**John Bosquez and Diane Renee Carlson**

\*\*\*\*\*

**According** to KFAN 'Bits' Page – Lower South Long is the 356<sup>th</sup> ranked lake in Minnesota. Gull was the highest ranked. (Okay – the source is questionable, and I don't know the criteria used, but being down on the list may just keep some of the general public away...)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Paul Koering**, Crow Wing County Commissioner has moved into the chairman role to begin the new year. Congrats, Paul!

\*\*\*\*\*

**Membership** – Thanks to all who supported the LSSL Improvement Association in 2019 with their



membership and donations. We were slightly above numbers and contributions compared to the prior year.

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## 2020 Membership Form - Lower South Long Lake Improvement Association

The purpose of the Lake Association is to monitor and care for the lake as both a natural resource and as our individual investment in the future. A second purpose is the organization and support of a social network of friendship and camaraderie.

Your membership does make a difference in the quality of our water and lakeside living. **Thank You** for your support.

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