



GULL CHAIN of LAKES
ASSOCIATION

FALL 2016

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Stony Brook in Fritz Loven Park

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE ²

Uldis Birznieks, Chair

In the theatre of seasons, summer is gone and autumn is here. The dock and lift operators are busy changing the shoreline landscape, leaves are falling, and lawn maintenance crews are busy. Change is in the air and change is happening both on the Gull Chain and within GCOLA.

By now, most people know that Gull Lake was one of two new lakes selected by DNR Fisheries to be stocked with muskies in 2016. Gull was stocked with 1200 muskie fingerlings (approximately 11" long) on October 7 with an additional 800 stocked on October 13. The stocking locations were Bishops Landing in Lake Shore, Squaw Point, Steamboat Bay and Hole-in-the-Day Bay. A number of concerned Gull Chain property owners had filed a petition shortly after the July 25 muskie stocking decision, seeking an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) be completed to determine environmental impact. The Minnesota Environmental Quality Board asked the DNR to make that determination. The DNR officially communicated the determination that the muskie stocking project on Gull

Lake "does not have potential for significant environmental effect" and an EAW is not required. That notification was officially sent at 3:18 p.m. on Friday, October 7. DNR Fisheries gave notification via email at 7:06 p.m. that same day (October 7) that 1200 muskies had been stocked in Gull Lake. This did not allow time for an appeal process by concerned Gull Chain property owners.

GCOLA has some changes within our committees that you should be made aware of. The GCOLA Board unanimously voted to set up a Fisheries Committee. The charter for that committee is that it "shall work with the MNDNR and the GCOLA membership to support the achievement of shared goals for the fishery in the Gull Chain of Lakes". Chuck Herrig has volunteered to be Chairman of that committee. At the November Board meeting, the Board will be voting on establishing a Legislative Committee. The draft charter for the Legislative committee is that it "shall be the primary interface for GCOLA with our state and local legislators, local units of government and the executive branch of state

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Uldis Birznieks, Chair

government.” In addition, Sheila Johnston has volunteered to be Chair of the Environmental Committee. In our next newsletter, we will provide a summary of all of our GCOLA committees. We encourage additional participation in these committees by any GCOLA member. It is a wonderful volunteering opportunity and a great way to give back to our wonderful Gull Chain of Lakes.

We also are looking to add one or two new members to our Board of Directors. If you are interested in taking a leadership position within GCOLA, please contact our Nominations Committee Chair, Kevin Egan at 218-963-3546; kegan22583@comcast.net.

One thing that is not changing but is increasing is the threat of additional aquatic invasive species (AIS) to our lake chain. Zebra mussels have changed the ecosystem of the Gull Chain, making the water clearer resulting in additional plant growth and consuming the lowest and very important element of the ecosystem food chain, the plankton. Zebra mussels now reside in all of the major lakes in the Brainerd Lakes area. Eurasian milfoil is in a number of lakes in the Brainerd Lakes area. Lakes that are infested with Eurasian milfoil usually have a lake improvement district (LID) established so all lakeshore property owners share in the expensive cost of its treatment/eradication (approximately \$2K/acre). Probably the scariest of all AIS so far, the starry stonewort, has been found in six additional lakes this year including the high fisherman traffic lakes of Winnibigoshish, Cass Lake and Upper Red Lake. Last year, the starry stonewort was found in 257 acres of Lake Kronis. That infestation is now lake wide and a mechanical harvester removed 286,000 pounds of starry stonewort from just a 4 acre test plot this summer. Lake Kronis residents reported infestations so thick they have trouble getting boats off boat lifts and into the lake and they have to paddle out past the infestation to motor up. Fishing off the dock or swimming from shore is impossible. Thus, starry stonewort can threaten property values and the tax base in those lakes that it infests. Read more about the starry stonewort in Sheila Johnston's article in this newsletter.

The AIS educational message the DNR is providing is good, but that is not enough. The funding the legislature has provided for AIS inspections is good, but that is not enough. Quicker response time and action, higher

priority, limiting access after infestation occurs, and more stringent penalties are needed. The onus for this action is not just on the DNR. We, the voting public, need to let our legislators and the DNR know that the current course of action (education and limited AIS inspections) is not enough. We are on a slippery slope where within a matter of years, most of the major lakes in Minnesota, including the Gull Chain, will have multiple AIS infestations if more is not done. To accomplish reversing this trend, it will take a combination of the legislature, the DNR and all of us.

On the positive side, GCOLA membership is at an all-time high of 950 and increasing. Our financials are in solid shape, and we should meet or beat our 2016 budget forecast. Your Board will be planning the GCOLA budget and activities for 2017 in the November/December timeframe. Sheila Johnston represented GCOLA at the Minnesota AIS Research Center (MAISRC) Showcase in September and three members of the Board attended the regional AIS Summit in October. Read articles on these events in this newsletter.

If you are still boating on the chain after the buoys have been removed, please observe the No Wake Zones. Those zones are in effect whether the buoys are there or not. This protects against shoreline erosion and wildlife in those areas.

Stay warm and stay in touch. You are all welcome to any of our regular Board meetings.

Kind regards, Uldis

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POWER LOADING DAMAGING TO BOAT LANDINGS

We have become aware of an issue of boat launch area damage due to boat loading, when the boat's power is used to load/push the boat onto a trailer. This practice is called power loading and, with many of the bigger/higher horsepower boats, can cause considerable damage to the boat launch area (MNDNR boat access areas). The power of the water coming off the propeller of the boat can wash away sand, rocks and gravel, as well as even concrete "planks", ruining the access for the next user. The gravel and sand that is pushed back can also create a berm or shallow area right behind the typical loading area, making it difficult for the next boat to even enter the usual boat loading area.

Power loading has seriously damaged many MNDNR boat access ramps, and is causing major concerns for the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of these public water launch areas. Please encourage all property owners and lake users to limit the use of boat power to load their trailers. The problem is aggravated by lower lake water elevations, and hopefully the recent rains will raise the lake levels and help the issue. However, certain lake accesses are shallower and not as steep, so the power loading damage can be an issue all the time on some MNDNR lake access locations. Please do your part to help keep the accesses open and usable for all the public.



AQUATIC INVADERS

Steve Alex, AIS Committee Chair

The second annual Aquatic Invaders Summit was held on October 5-6 at the Rivers Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud. Representing GCOLA at this conference were board members, Sheila Johnston, Rosemary Goff and Steve Alex.

The conference brought together a broad number of stakeholders in the effort to stop the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species in our lakes and waterways. Representation at the conference included MN Coalition of Lake Associations, MN DNR, U-M Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC), US Fish and Wildlife Service, county AIS specialists, MN Association of Watershed District's, and many communities from across the state. One of the core concepts of the conference is that all of the stakeholders need to collaborate and build partnerships to effectively control the spread of AIS.

There were nearly a hundred individual breakout sessions presented by the stakeholders referenced above. These included presentations on latest AIS research, early detection and response plans for AIS in lakes and rivers, communication/educational efforts targeted to all age groups from school age children to adults, effective use of herbicides to control or eradicate AIS weeds such as Eurasian Mil-Foil, use of social media to educate and get the AIS message out to more people, design of early AIS detection programs, initial results of efforts to eradicate Starry Stonewort, and importance of involving all stakeholders on a lake to control AIS movement including home owners, resorts, fishing guides, DNR, and local communities.

One breakout session described the infestation and treatment of Eurasian Water Mil-Foil (EWM) in Lake Washburn, a 1500 acre lake located north of Outing in Cass County. EWM was discovered at this lake in July 2009 and a 6 acre section of the lake was chemically treated, two months later, in September 2009. In the summer of 2010 a small amount of EWM was detected in the chemically treated area. These plants were handpicked and removed by scuba divers. The lake was free from EWM for three years, but rediscovered in 2014 when an additional 11 acres were chemically treated. No EWM has been detected in the 2015 and 2016 surveys. The cost for chemical treatment for eradicating EWM was approximately \$2000/acre.

Going forward, the Lake Washburn association has increased boat inspections, assigned "beach captains" to watch for EWM on various sections of the lake, offered classes to train lakeshore owners, fisherman, and boaters to help identify AIS species as a means to get more "eyes" watching the lake for early detection of any AIS. In the case of EWM, early detection is critical to minimize the infestation and lower the treatment costs.

In the last year there has been significant progress made with AIS education and communication, including signage to "Clean-Drain-Dry" all boats leaving or entering a lake. One educational program targeted towards school age children was developed by the Otter Tail County AIS task force. The program is called Train the Teachers to Train the Kids. It gives accurate information on aquatic invasive species to science teachers in eleven schools so they can inform their kids and in turn "kids train other kids" on the prevention of AIS. The program is geared to middle level students first and then secondary level students.

The Association of Cass County Lakes (ACCL) presented the Resort Ambassador Program which brings together resort owners in Cass County, including Gull Chain of Lakes, to offer ideas on the best means to insure that guests are fully aware of AIS and how to employ measure to prevent guests from introducing AIS. ACCL has completed site visits and conducted a survey of over 60 resorts in Cass County. The results from the survey indicate that from 60-80% of resort guests bring their own boats and that most guests from MN are aware of the AIS introduction and the current laws with "Clean-Drain-Dry". But very few out of state guests are aware of AIS issues and need to be educated about AIS introduction and trained on "Clean-Drain-Dry". A high percentage of guests are also "lake hoppers" where they stay at a resort at one lake, but then load their boat to take to another local lake. So it is very important that all guests who bring a boat to a resort are fully aware of the necessary steps to prevent introduction of AIS. For 2017 GCOLA AIS plans will include working with resorts and/or any associations with a lake access to provide necessary educational materials that can be provided to resort guests or visitors to our chain of lakes.

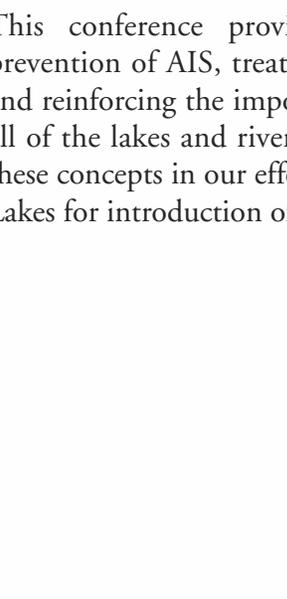
One of the most attended technical sessions dealt with the recent infestations across the state of Starry Stonewort. Starry Stonewort was detected in 2015 in Lake Koronis near Paynesville and subsequently has been detected this year in five additional lakes in north central MN, including Moose Lake, Turtle Lake, Upper Red Lake, Lake Winnie and Cass Lake. Starry Stonewort infestation results in a thick mat of weeds so dense that is impassable to boats. Initial treatment programs have been started, but results are still under review. Sheila Johnston has an article in this newsletter with more information and details about Starry Stonewort infestations.

This conference provided the latest concepts for prevention of AIS, treatment programs for infestations, and reinforcing the importance of collaboration between all of the lakes and rivers stakeholders. We will utilize these concepts in our efforts to protect the Gull Chain of Lakes for introduction of any AIS species.

Social Circles

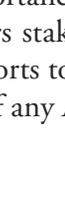


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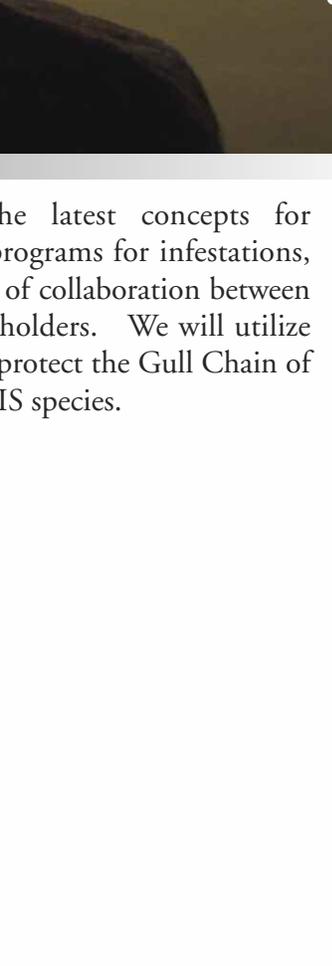
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A NEW THREAT:

Sheila Johnston, Environmental Committee Chair



Starry Stonewort is a new invader that is quickly gaining ground, and it is of increasing concern. It is a grass-like form of algae that are not native to North America. Starry stonewort was first found in North America in 1978 in the St. Lawrence River and has spread inland. It is now found in Michigan, New York, Indiana, and was discovered in Wisconsin in 2014. It was first found in Minnesota in Lake Koronis, Stearns County, in late August of 2015. Since then it has spread to much of the lake. Plant fragments were likely brought into the state on a trailered boat from infested waters in another state. In August of 2016, starry stonewort was confirmed in several lakes in Beltrami, Itasca, and Cass counties, and include Mud Lake, Moose Lake, Turtle Lake, Upper Red Lake, Lake Winnie, and Cass Lake.

Starry stonewort is a highly invasive green alga. It is similar in appearance to native grass-like algae. However, starry stonewort can be distinguished from these look-alikes by the presence of star-shaped bulbils. It can grow tall and dense, and forms mats on the surface of the water that interfere with recreation. This invasive alga is so dense that swimming through it could be dangerous, and it can entangle motors. The dense mats of starry stonewort may crowd out native aquatic plants, and negatively affect fish habitat and spawning habitat.

Starry stonewort is dioecious. Individuals are either male or female, and evidence indicates that the populations in the U.S. are all male, which means that starry stonewort is spread through human movement of fragments from lake to lake. It is concentrated in lakes with accesses and high use areas. Boater movement is the main vector of spread through the unintentional transfer of plant fragments and bulbils, the star-like structures produced by the plant. The bulbils allow the plant to reproduce vegetatively. Bulbils and fragments, or mud containing them, are most likely attached to trailered boats, personal watercraft, and anchors that were not properly cleaned. The most important actions boaters can take to keep this invader out of the Gull chain of lakes and other lakes are Clean, Drain, and Dry.

Because starry stonewort has no vasculature, control is difficult. It is so dense that chemicals do not always reach enough of the macro algae. Plant cells must be bathed with the herbicide. Each cell is an individual that must be individually killed. If a newly discovered population of starry stonewort has limited distribution on a lake, mechanical harvesting is not recommended because it might create fragments that would speed the spread of the invasive plant.

STARRY STONEWORT⁸



Mike Mackedanz has lived on Lake Koronis for 41 years, and told Fox 9 that the weed “looks like raw sewage” and he fears the day that it will make recreation on the lake almost impossible. The lake association started a pilot project to fight the invasive algae. Because chemical treatments give “haircuts” but do not get down into the biomass, an integrated treatment approach was used. The plan included containment of the biomass with mesh placed around the pilot area, divers hand-pulling weeds before applying chemicals, a sein net used to collect particles lost in the pulling operation, use of an aquavac, and repeated chemical treatments. The cost of the pilot project was \$50,000. It is estimated that treating 250 acres of Lake Koronis that are infested with starry stonewort will cost \$800,000.

The Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) is working to assess starry stonewort’s risk of spread throughout the state. Through their research they have learned that it appears to be occupying a climate niche in its invaded range that is different from where it

occurs in its native range. There is a great deal of uncertainty about its potential impacts in Minnesota and there is uncertainty as how to best control this invasive species. MAISRC is bringing together international experts to synthesize current research and identify gaps in the science needed to better support management of starry stonewort.

The importance of early detection cannot be overstated. Weekly checking of boat accesses for starry stonewort by trained “detectors” is highly recommended and will help protect our lake from this invasive species. GCOLA will be working with the University of Minnesota Extension Services to train volunteers to be AIS Detectors. If you are interested in becoming an AIS Detector, please contact Sheila Johnston at sheilafjohnston@me.com.

For more information on starry stonewort visit: www.maisrc.umn.edu/starry-stonewort



2016 SHORELINE RESTORATION/HABITAT PROGRAM



Planting was completed on a new site on Bass Lake which dealt with a common problem on the Gull Chain: riprap already in place. While riprap seems like a logical thing to do to prevent shoreline erosion, riprap is not permanent. The stones are frequently moved by winter ice, leaving ugly underlying black fabric exposed. Riprap provides no habitat and it functions like a wall which can't be crossed by animals above and below the water's edge. Think of it as a dead zone for loons, turtles, waterfowl, and a mine field for broken bones for humans trying to cross it.

GCOLA has published a position paper on alternatives to riprap. It is available on our website (<http://gullchainoflakesassociation.org/lakescaping.htm>)

On the Bass Lake site, some riprap was moved up from the water's edge to form a demarcation between lawn and native shoreline plants. In other areas at this site riprap was left in place but native wild flowers and grasses were planted between the stones. A cover crop of oats was used to protect the bare land until the native perennials





fill in next year. Fifty percent of the costs of this project were reimbursed by the City of Lake Shore which offers a program similar to that of GCOLA for pre-approved shoreline projects.

A Gull Lake project completed in 2015 came into bloom this year, and it is being followed closely. The one is on the lower part of a steep bluff on Gull Lake.

During 2016 over 25 site visits were done on 21 shoreline locations on the Gull Chain as part of GCOLA's Shoreline Restoration and Habitat program. Those interested in pursuing projects in 2017 are welcome to contact me at ronfaust@mac.com or MN DNR Aquatic Habitat Specialist Heather Baird, (heather.baird@state.mn.us).



11 PREPARING SEASONAL SEPTIC SYSTEMS AND CABINS FOR WINTER

Closing a septic system for the winter is a vital task for seasonal homeowners to prolong the life of the system and to keep it operating at peak performance. Precautions taken in the fall can help prevent a frozen system.

WINTERIZING THE PIPES IN THE CABIN

- Do not add automotive antifreeze, salts or any other additives to your plumbing.
- If you leave the water on for the winter, be very sure there are no leaks or drips. This constant, low flow of water can cause septic system freezing. This is common with high efficiency furnaces.
- Even if the heat is left on, it is a good idea to drain water supply lines. Shut off the water where it enters the house and drain all lines. Drain the pump and then run a couple of seconds to be sure all water is out of the lines. Drain the system by opening all the faucets, leave faucets open. Completely drain the pressure tank. Flush toilets and add RV antifreeze to the tanks at the recommended dilution ratio. Check flexible hoses in sinks and bathtubs to be sure they are drained completely. Remove and drain inlet hoses for the dishwasher and clothes washer. Clear the water valve by starting the machine for a few seconds, then drain the tub. Remove the drain hoses, drain completely. Disconnect the electrical supply to the pump, water heater, softener, washer and dishwasher. Drain the water heater and water softener with a hose after the power is disconnected. RV antifreeze can be added to traps in the sink, bathtub and shower drains, washtubs, floor drains and sump pumps. In the spring, re-connect all hoses and flush the lines out before using again.

- For those using the cabin periodically throughout the winter, set the thermostat to 50 degrees and open the doors of cabinets that have pipes in them so heat can get in. Pipes can also be insulated, or wrapped with heat tape.

FURNACE

If you have a high efficiency furnace that is left on for the winter, be sure there is no water drip into your system. Freezing can result. Re-route the drip water to a floor drain, bucket or other source that does not enter the septic system at all, or enters in larger amounts. This water does

not harm the septic system, but entering in very small amounts causes a trickle of water, which can freeze more easily. If shutting off the furnace, drain all water from forced hot water and steam systems unless the system contains antifreeze. If that is the case, call a plumber for assistance. If leaving the furnace on, it is a wise idea to conserve energy by installing a low-heat thermostat that will maintain the cabin at 40 degrees.

SEPTIC SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

- Consider pumping the tank if closing the cabin for the winter, or if it will only be used a few times during the winter. If you live in an area with a high water table, you should only pump out the tank if the tank was designed for high water table conditions. If a tank is left full but the system is not used for the winter months, the sewage will get very cold, and can even freeze. If the cabin is opened before temperatures in the soil start to rise, the effluent leaving the tank will be cold, which is not desirable in the soil treatment area.
- To help prevent septic systems from freezing, spread a layer of straw or leaves over the system to provide insulation.
- Do not plow snow off the area or store plowed snow over the drainfield.

SEALING WINDOWS AND AIR LEAKS

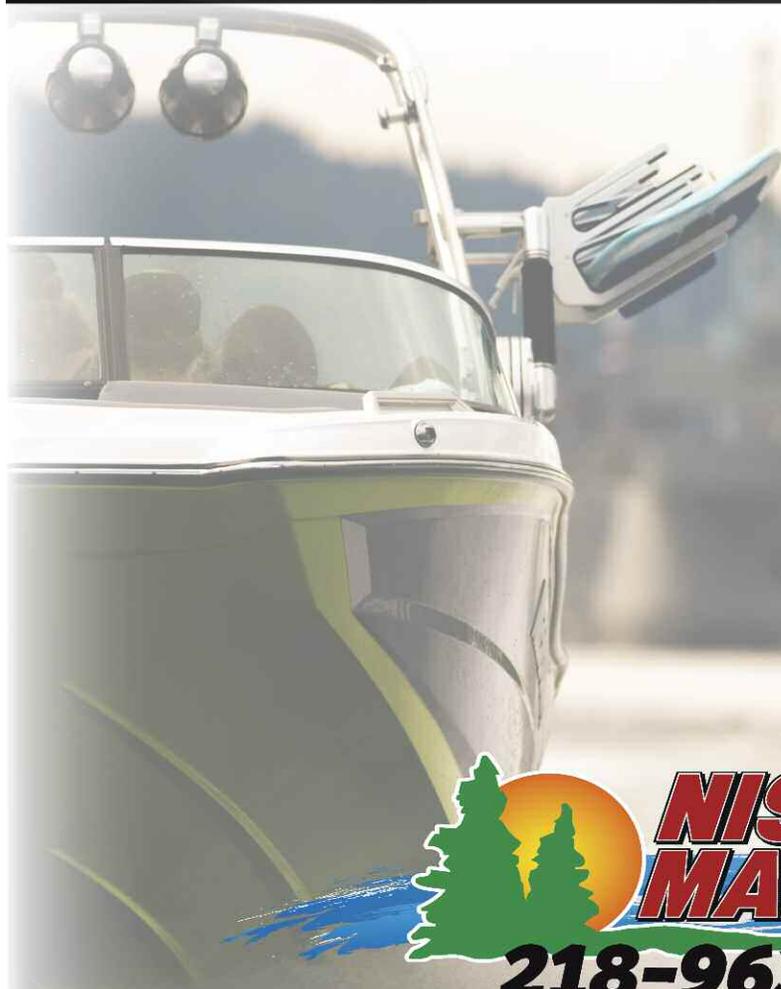
Going through the cabin and sealing windows and air leaks will help conserve energy and save dollars for those who heat a cabin year-round. While you check for air leaks you may also want to have some steel wool on hand to plug any holes large enough to invite critters into the cabin while you are away. Mothballs or dryer sheets around the cabin also keep unwanted pests out.

Sources: University of Wisconsin Extension;
MN Pollution Control Agency



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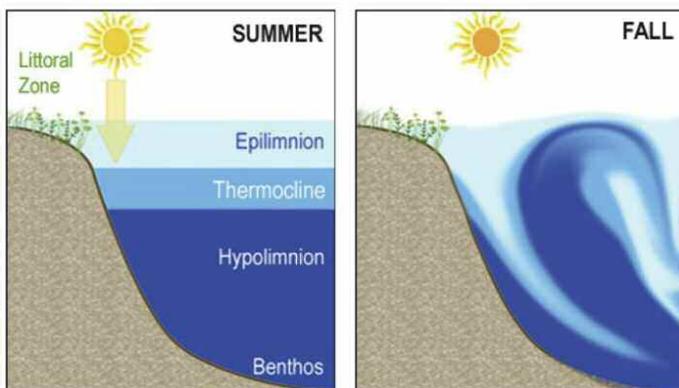
FALL TURNOVER IN OUR LAKES

The temperature has cooled lately and the wind has picked up. These are the ingredients needed for fall turnover in our lakes. A couple months ago I wrote about how the lakes separated into layers in the summer, which is called stratification. To recap, the layering of lakes has to do with the relationship between water density and temperature.

Water is most dense at 39 Fahrenheit (4 degrees Celsius), and as water warms or cools from that mark it gets less dense. This has implications for a lake's structure because the denser water is heavier and will be at the bottom of a lake while the less dense water is lighter and will generally be at the top of the lake.

In the summer in Minnesota, the sun heats the top layer of a lake (called the epilimnion) which causes it to become less dense. The bottom layer of the lake (called the hypolimnion) does not receive sunlight and therefore remains cold. Since the top layer of the lake is less dense, it floats on top of the bottom layer and the two do not mix. The metalimnion is the middle layer of water. The metalimnion also encompasses the thermocline, the area of the most drastic change in water temperature.

In the fall in Minnesota, the sunlight is not as strong and the nights become cooler. This change in season allows the top layer of the lake to cool off. As the water cools, the density difference between the top layer of the lake and bottom layer is not as great. Wind can then mix the layers.



Eventually the top layer fades and mixes with the middle layer. The thermocline sinks in the water column as the heavier upper water layer forces it deeper. Soon, though, the temperature in this mixed upper layer equals that of the bottom layer; wind easily mixes the entire water column because similar temperature and density exist throughout. This mixing allows oxygen and nutrients to be distributed across the whole water column again, and is called fall turnover.

The timing and duration of fall turnover depends on the size and depth of the lake. Sometimes it can occur in a couple days and sometime it takes a week or more. The deeper the lake, the longer the water column takes to become uniform in temperature since the bottom stays cooler. Most lakes in Minnesota that are deeper than about 20 feet turnover in early to mid October.

You can track fall turnover in an individual lake a couple different ways. The easiest way is with a Secchi disk and a water thermometer. A Secchi disk measures water clarity. During fall turnover, the clarity of a lake usually decreases because mixing brings up nutrient rich water from the bottom of the lake and causes the lake to look cloudy. Sometimes there is even a distinct smell as decomposing plants, algae and other matter surfaces. Then, when turnover is complete, the clarity increases dramatically. If you take Secchi disk readings and surface water temperature readings every day or every other day in late September and early October, you can track fall turnover. Once the surface is 39 degrees F and the water clarity is deeper than it's been all summer, you will know that turnover is complete.

A more precise way to track fall turnover and the sinking of the thermocline is to take the temperature at 2-foot intervals from the surface of the lake to the bottom. You can tie a rope to a thermometer and mark 2-foot intervals on the rope. If you graph a line of temperature versus depth in the lake, you can see how the lake cools off and becomes uniform in temperature after turnover.

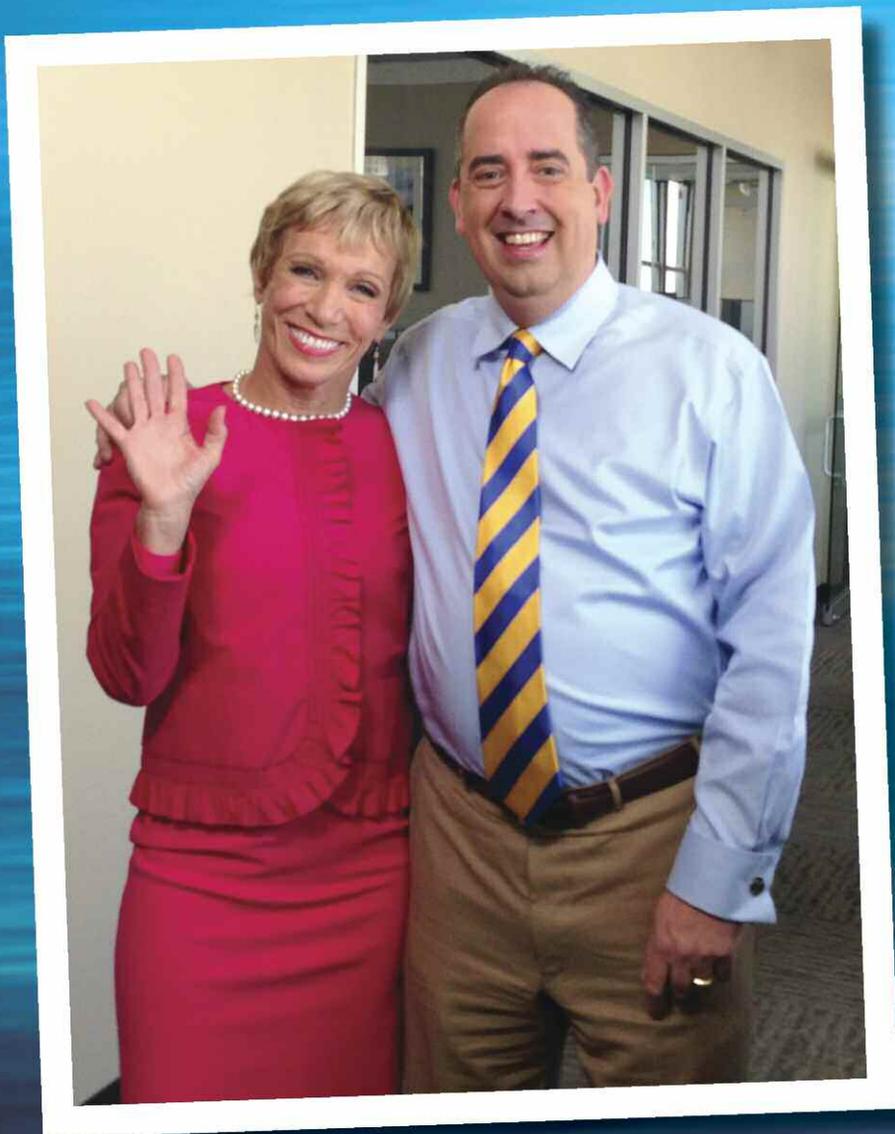
Some people report that fishing is not as good during fall turnover. The main reason fishing is harder is because the fish move and are more dispersed. In the summer, walleyes school in high oxygenated holes and structures. When the lake mixes, the oxygen levels become uniform throughout the lake so fish can roam anywhere. For information on how to fish during fall turnover, visit: <http://fishingminnesota.com/fishinfo343.html>.

Most lakes in northern Minnesota are considered dimictic, meaning they mix twice a year - spring and fall. Shallow lakes, less than 15-20 feet, behave differently and can mix more often throughout the summer.

Enjoy the lakes! This article was written and shared by Moriya Rufer at RMB Environmental Laboratories as part of continuing education for their Lakes Monitoring Program (218-846-1465, lakes@rmbel.info). To learn more, visit www.rmbel.info.

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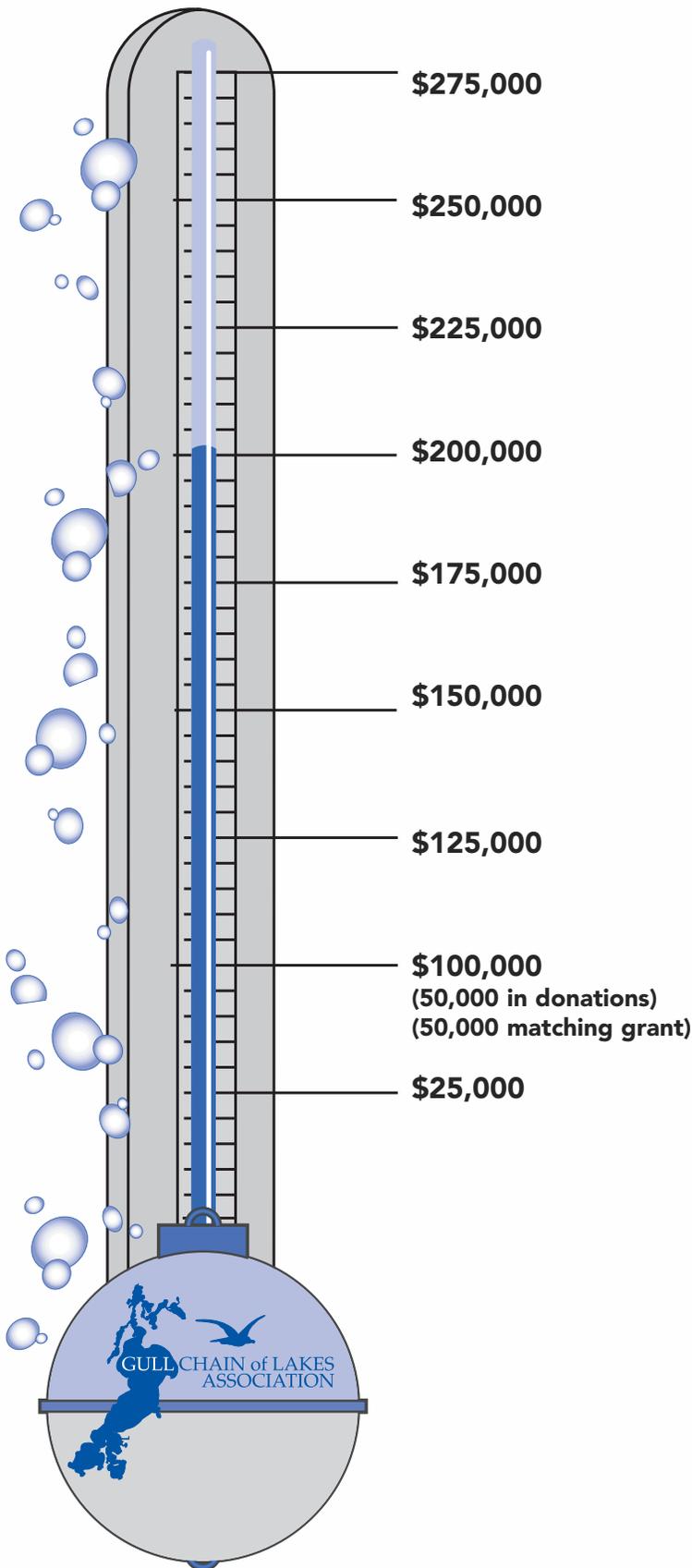
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ENDOWMENT FUND UPDATE



In partnership with the Initiative Foundation, GCOLA established a perpetual Endowment Fund. The fund is intended to provide long-term funding to support the stewardship activities of GCOLA to preserve and improve the ecosystem of the Gull Chain of Lakes. It's also a wonderful opportunity to leave a legacy for those who will enjoy this area for years to come.

We currently have just over \$200,000 in the fund, which includes a \$50,000 matching grant from the Initiative Foundation. It is great to know that there is a long-term base of financial resources through the endowment to be able to carry out projects designed to enhance and protect our beautiful chain of lakes. Watch for a December mailing seeking additional donations to this fund.

Individuals who are age 70 1/2 or older can make gifts (up to \$100,000) directly from their IRA accounts to qualified non-profits such as GCOLA, without paying federal income tax on the withdrawal. Contact your tax consultant for detail on specific tax regulations.

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INTERVIEW WITH NICHOLAS PHELPS, MA, PHD

GCOLA: On the Gull Chain of Lakes, we are acutely aware of the impacts of aquatic invasive species (AIS) on the use of our lakes and the health of the ecosystems. Zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, curlyleaf pondweed and *Heterosporis* are realities for us – and many more are on our doorstep. There are no easy answers to these problems and a lot of work needs to be done to develop solutions. GCOLA has been working hard to prevent the spread and manage AIS for years. However, as one lake association, we cannot do it alone. Luckily, the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) is here to help. We are joined today by Dr. Nick Phelps, the new Director of MAISRC, to update us on their priorities and progress, but first Nick, tell us more about yourself and the connection to the area.

Nick Phelps: Thank you very much for the chance to chat and share an update from MAISRC with the members of GCOLA! I know the Gull Lake area very well – I grew up just down the road in Brainerd and have spent countless hours on lakes in the area and the family cabin on Leech Lake. From these experiences, I learned at a very early age the importance of our lakes to both the ecology and the economy of central Minnesota. I also learned that we needed to do much more to help protect our lakes to preserve them for generations to come. To that end, I went on to school at Bemidji State University (B.S., Aquatic Biology), University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff (M.S., Aquaculture/Fisheries), and the University of Minnesota (Ph.D., Veterinary Medicine). I worked at the UMN College of Veterinary Medicine for nine years, developing a program focused on the health and sustainability of fish populations. I was also with MAISRC since its formation in 2012, working to develop biocontrol options for invasive carp and understanding pathways of AIS spread between lakes. My career path has been no surprise to anyone that knew me growing up!

GCOLA: Tell us more about your new position.

NP: As of July, I became the new Director of MAISRC. To ensure a smooth transition, Dr. Sue Galatowistch and I will overlap as Co-Directors for one year. Is it too cliché to say ‘a dream come true’? I wake up every day trying to find solutions to one of the biggest threats to our lakes – aquatic invasive species. I am not alone and am lucky to be surrounded by a creative and ambitious team of

researchers, who work on a variety of AIS and develop approaches to prevent and/or control them. I also have my own research lab, students, and all the other fun stuff that comes with being a University faculty member.

GCOLA: What are your goals for MAISRC moving forward?

NP: MAISRC was founded with the intention of developing science-based solutions to Minnesota’s AIS problems and we will continue to do that. We have developed a comprehensive 10-year strategic plan and a process for prioritizing research needs – both critical steps in guiding the future of the Center. While there are many goals to achieve, a few stand out right now. First, creating a culture of collaboration and creativity. Breaking down academic ‘silos’ and bringing together new perspectives on old problems will yield improved results. This goes beyond the walls of the University and can/will extend to other research organizations, management agencies, and other AIS stakeholders. I hope we can engage groups like GCOLA to participate in future research efforts.

Second, developing a plan for long-term sustainable funding. The MN Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund has generously supported MAISRC since 2012; however, we currently do not have funding beyond 2019. While I am optimistic we can find a source of stable funding to support the Center, it will not be easy and we appreciate the support from our many stakeholders. We also greatly appreciate the private donations from GCOLA and others that have helped position MAISRC as a leader in the field.

The third goal is prioritizing research needs. This is a long, thorough, and inclusive process that we will undergo every other year. Through a recent survey, we received hundreds of ideas from across the state – big thanks to all the GCOLA members that participated! Last week a team of 20 researchers, managers and stakeholders took part in a day-long process to sort through all the ideas, and select and rank the top 50. We are reviewing that list now and I can tell you that it is impressive. We may not get everything done on that list, but we will get a good start and that will go a loooong way to solving our problems.

CO-DIRECTOR, MINNESOTA AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES RESEARCH CENTER

GCOLA: Anything jump out at you that will be top priorities?

NP: Clearly zebra mussels and starry stonewort are two species that are a major concern for Minnesota right now – and you too, I know. For zebra mussels, we are currently exploring genetic variation between populations to recreate the invasion history, or simply put, reconstruct the family tree. If we can understand the past, we can have a better chance to predict the future. Building on an improved genome understanding, priorities were identified to explore the use of genetic biocontrol strategies. A long-term approach with many questions, but clearly worth investigating. In addition, we are also working to develop rapid response recommendations for chemical treatments, estimating the risk of residual water in boats, and understanding natural and human-assisted pathways.

Starry stonewort has received a lot of attention this last year and we have been quick to respond. We have built predictive models to understand the potential range of the species in current and future climate scenarios – bad news, much of MN, including the Gull Lake area, is potentially suitable. We will continue to refine these models to get better predictability. We are also working to understand desiccation rates, impacts on native species, and treatment effectiveness.

I should also mention, non-species priorities. We heard loud and clear through our process that there is a need to better understand the economic impacts of AIS, effective messaging for behavior change, enforcement strategies to improve compliance, and many similar ideas. While MAISRC has largely been species-focused, I hope we can

support efforts in these areas soon.

GCOLA: This has been very interesting Nick! Anything else you want to say?

NP: I could talk all day on the work being done at MAISRC! But most important, I would like to thank GCOLA for your commitment to MAISRC – we could not do what we do without the support from groups like you!



My family (Paula and William) and I out for a boat ride.



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The Brainerd Lakes Chapter of Fishing Has No Boundaries was formed in 2003 when Dave Anderson (Bass Lake) and Tim Brastrup (former Brainerd area DNR Fisheries Supervisor) just happened to be at a presentation about FHNB given by Vance Balstad of the Bemidji FHNB Chapter. Tim and Dave talked it over and asked the question "Why aren't we doing this on Gull Lake?" While asking for ideas on how to set up our chapter, someone suggested calling Bob Slaybaugh at the Confidence Learning Center. That call resulted in one of the major keys to our success. Bob's expertise in arranging large events for people with disabilities and the agreement

to be able to use the Camp facilities gave us a huge head start in getting our chapter going.

We were joined by 35 anglers in our inaugural year, 56 in 2004, 94 in 2005, 110 in 2006 and 124 anglers in 2016. The event is housed at the Confidence Learning Center with most participants staying in the Camp's cabins. PaPa Murphy's donates pizzas on Friday evening followed by entertainment and a camp fire with smore's. Fishing start's at 9 a.m. Saturday on both Gull and Sylvan Lakes. S & W Bait donates all of the bait. Noon lunch is donated by Ernies and Zorba's for those fishing on Gull and a lunch



CELEBRATES 14TH YEAR²⁰



on the beach for those fishing on Sylvan. A fish fry takes place Saturday evening followed by more entertainment and smore's by the campfire. Anglers are able to take home their catch, all cleaned and packaged. (We try to limit the amount of fish to just enough to feed two people.) During the Saturday evening program, anglers especially enjoy being able to tell everyone their "fish tales" on how they made their catch.

This event would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors, Camp Confidence and Rod Benders Fishing Club, many local businesses, The Corps of Engineers, community organizations and amazing

volunteers and camp staff who put in countless hours behind the scenes and at the event to make it all possible. Over 150 volunteers includes over 60 boat captains who generously provide their skills, equipment and time to ensure a safe and enjoyable event. Other volunteers act as 1st mates on the boats, help with the food, solicit donations and help with other logistics.

Fishing Has No Boundaries®, Inc. (FHNB) is a non-profit 501-C3 organization whose goal is to open up the great outdoors for people with disabilities through the world of fishing. FHNB has grown as a National Organization with 27 chapters in 13 states, enabling thousands of individuals with disabilities to participate fully in this spirit lifting, morale booster, trouble free recreational activity. Donations are tax deductible. The Brainerd chapter is one of the largest chapters in the nation now averaging over 120 anglers per year.

Event details and photos from past events can be found at <http://www.BrainerdLakesFHNB.org>.

The 2017 event will be held August 25 and 26. If you're interested in volunteering for a fun weekend, give me a call!



INVESTING IN CLEAN WATER

The Minnesota Headwaters Fund is a \$10 million privately-funded investment to support The Nature Conservancy's work to accomplish high-impact conservation of Mississippi River watersheds in Minnesota. Through targeted investments, the Fund aims to ensure clean water is available for people, businesses and nature.

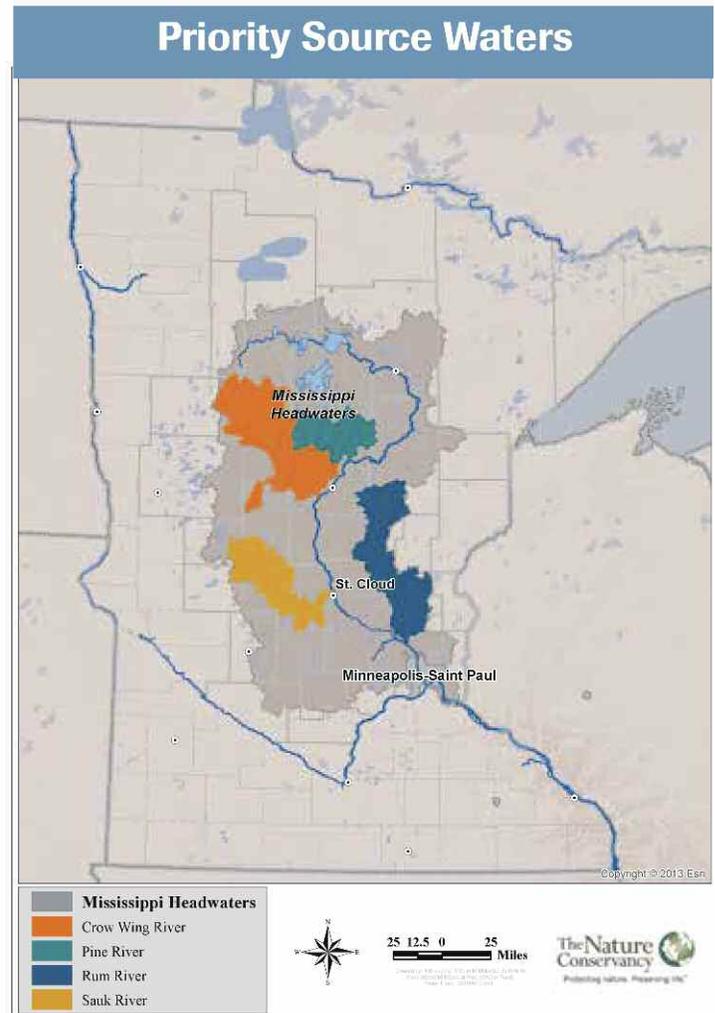
The goal of this Fund is to: 1) implement targeted conservation projects (protection and restoration) to protect Minnesota's healthiest rivers and lakes, 2) raise awareness of water quality issues affecting Minnesota's natural environments and communities, 3) leverage public resources for water protection through conservation, and 4) provide opportunities for the private sector to be part of the solution.

LAND CONVERSION IS A THREAT TO CLEAN WATER

The Mississippi River directly supplies drinking water to almost one million people in the Twin Cities and St. Cloud. Currently, that water is relatively clean. In other parts of the state, however, water quality in rivers and lakes is being degraded by nutrients and sediment as surrounding lands are converted for urban and agricultural uses. The Minnesota Headwaters Fund will help protect clean water supplies from the impact of land conversion, preserving precious water resources.

Minnesota has the second highest rate of deforestation in the United States. Between 2008 and 2013, more than 260,000 acres of forest, wetland and grassland in the Upper Mississippi River Basin were converted to agriculture, with the largest proportion occurring in critical water supply source areas. This land conversion significantly impacts water quality, elevating levels of nitrogen and other pollutants and increasing the costs to communities of producing safe drinking water.

Once land is converted for agricultural use, it is harder to conserve or repair the lost or degraded water resources. Conserving land before it is converted to urban or agricultural use has been proven to protect clean water sources and dramatically reduce water degradation.



MINNESOTA HEADWATERS FUND CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

The Minnesota Headwaters Fund will strategically target conservation funds to produce positive results for Minnesota. The Fund's conservation demonstration projects, which will include both protection of pristine water sources and restoration with high rates of return, will result in:

- 5,000-6,000 acres of easements that will create buffers and protect critical lands in the watershed by capturing pollutants and sediment before they enter rivers and lakes
- 20-40 miles of stream bank and floodplain restoration, as well as constructed wetlands and other water quality management projects, to reduce the amount of nitrates and other nutrients entering rivers and lakes

- Monitoring of fish, mussel and water quality to help ensure the Fund's actions have an impact; data will be leveraged to build a stronger case for conserving forest lands to protect, preserve and conserve secure water supplies

MAKING THE MOST OF PUBLIC FUNDING

In the United States, billions of dollars of public funding are invested in water conservation every year. Minnesota is receiving and is poised to receive a significant influx of federal and state funding for water programs in the coming years, including conservation funding from the U.S. Farm Bill and Minnesota's Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment.

Research has shown that focusing these public investments on targeted conservation actions in high-impact watersheds is more effective and generates a greater return on investment than strategies that disperse the funds more widely across the state.

We will leverage what we learn from the Fund's demonstration projects to influence the strategic investment of public funds. Data provided by the Fund will help policy makers prioritize and focus water conservation projects in those places in the Basin where

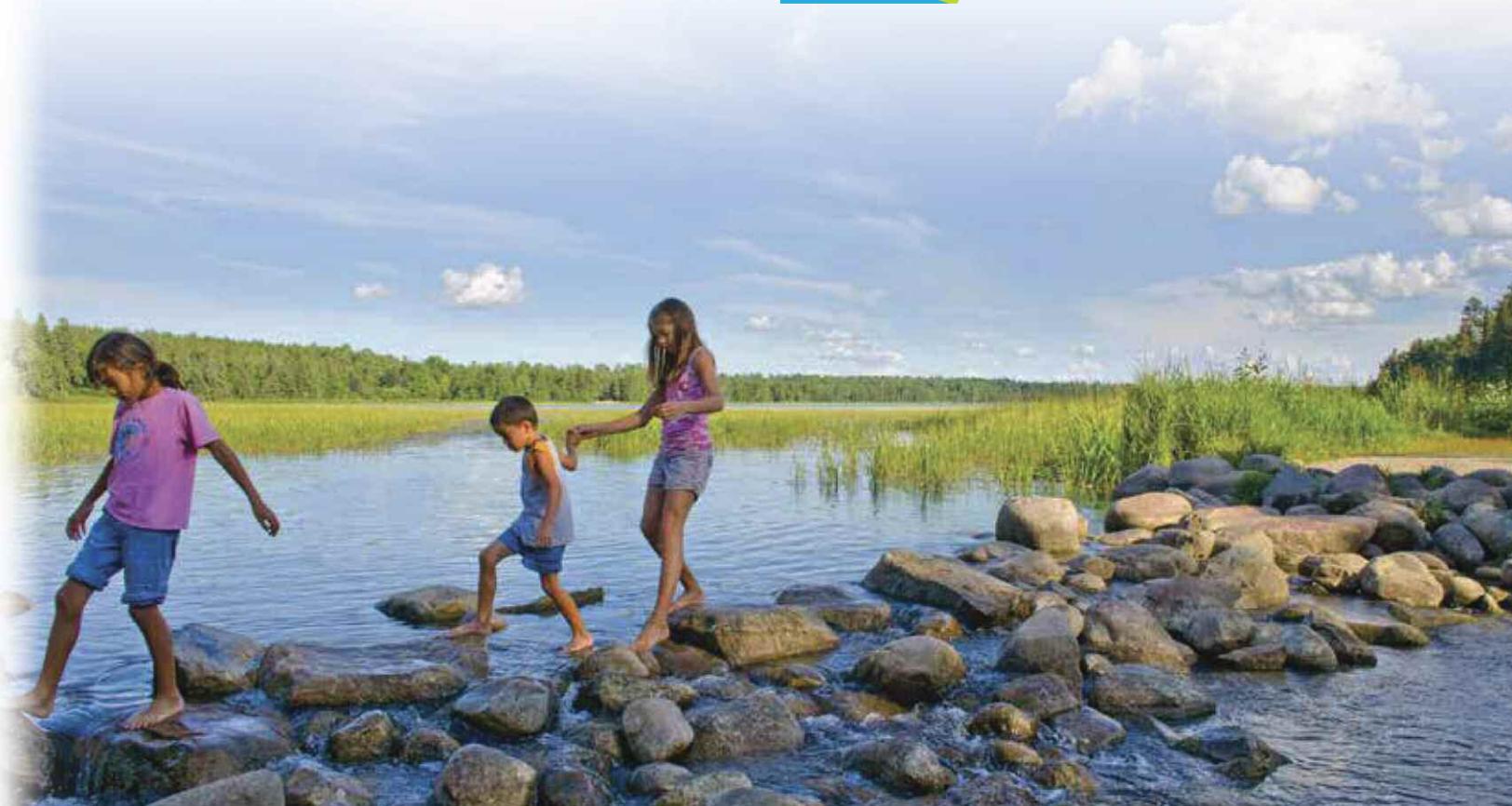
they will have the greatest impact on drinking water quality while reducing water treatments costs. Findings will be used to show that conservation efforts are most effective before forests are converted for other uses and that early conservation investments in watersheds are a cost-effective alternative to engineered infrastructure.

SECURING MINNESOTA'S WATER FUTURE

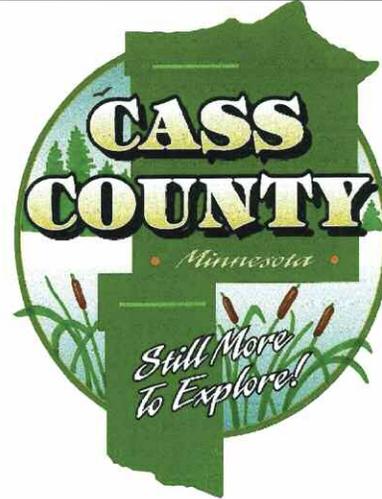
Minnesotans value healthy, functioning lakes and rivers and rely on them for drinking water, irrigation, manufacturing, transportation and world-class recreation opportunities. The Minnesota Headwaters Fund is a way for citizens, business and government to take action now to protect one of our state's most precious resources while the waters are still healthy. Together, we can invest in Minnesota's water future for our economy, our environment, our health, our children and ourselves.



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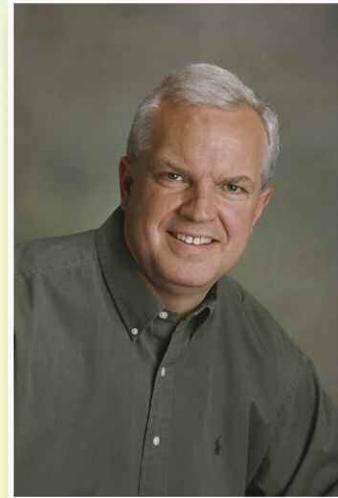
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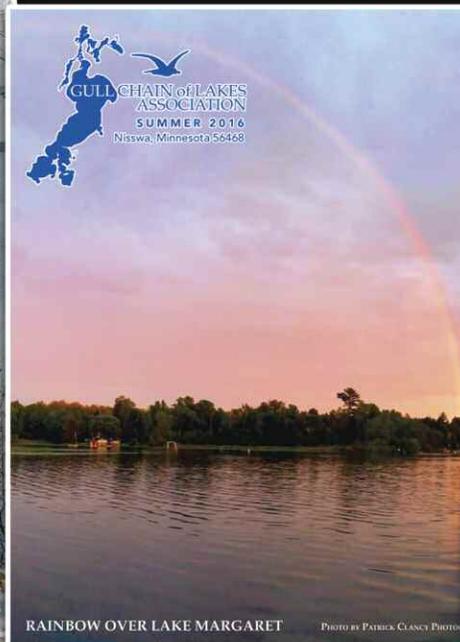
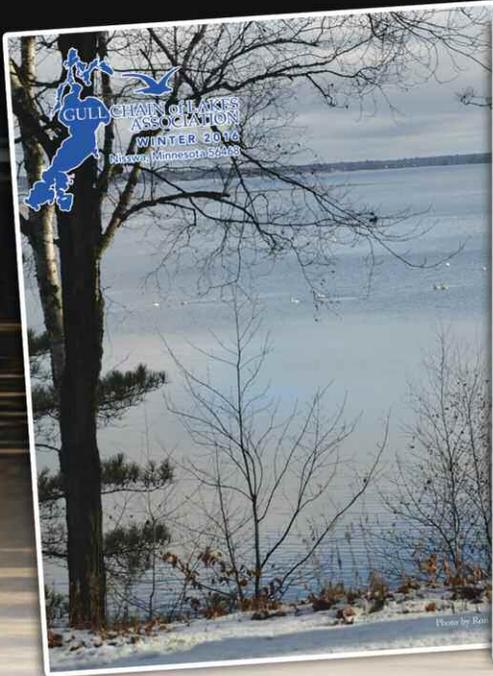


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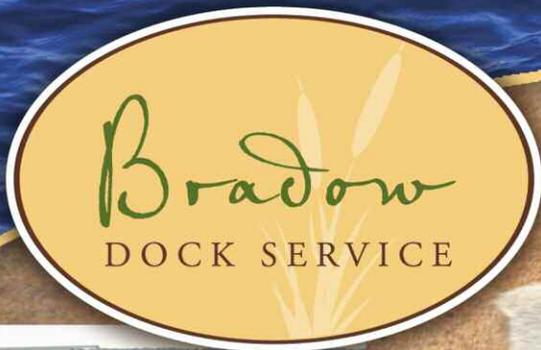
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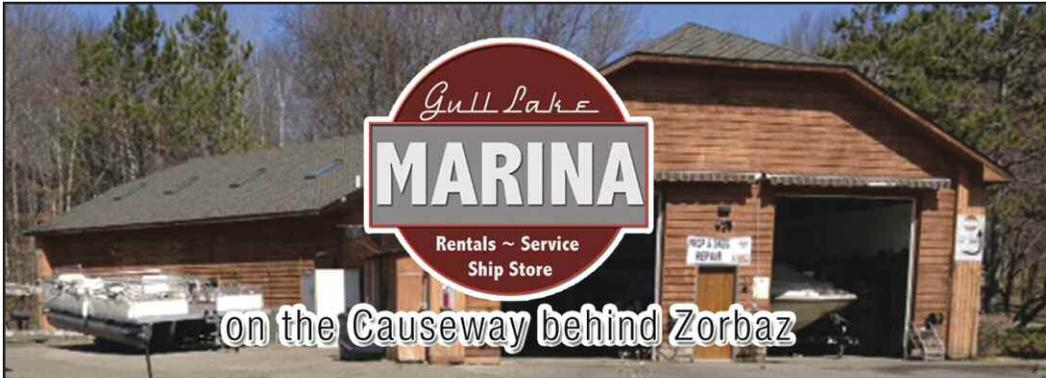
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GULL CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION 2016 MEMBERSHIP DUES STATEMENT

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PLEASE USE THIS FORM: Please provide the information requested below and send with your 2016 dues to the address indicated. We have also provided a space for any additional contributions that you would like to make to the Invasive Species Fund.

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Lake address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Lake Phone: _____

Email address: _____

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2016 dues: \$50.00

Additional donation designated to:

+ Invasive Species Fund _____ + Endowment Fund _____ + Buoy Fund _____ + Board Discretion

= Total Contribution: _____

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Dues can be sent to Box 102, Nisswa, MN 56468

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Lakes Printing in Brainerd is the only business that is allowed access to our Association member list and only for the purpose of mailing our newsletter. They have issued the following confidentiality policy.

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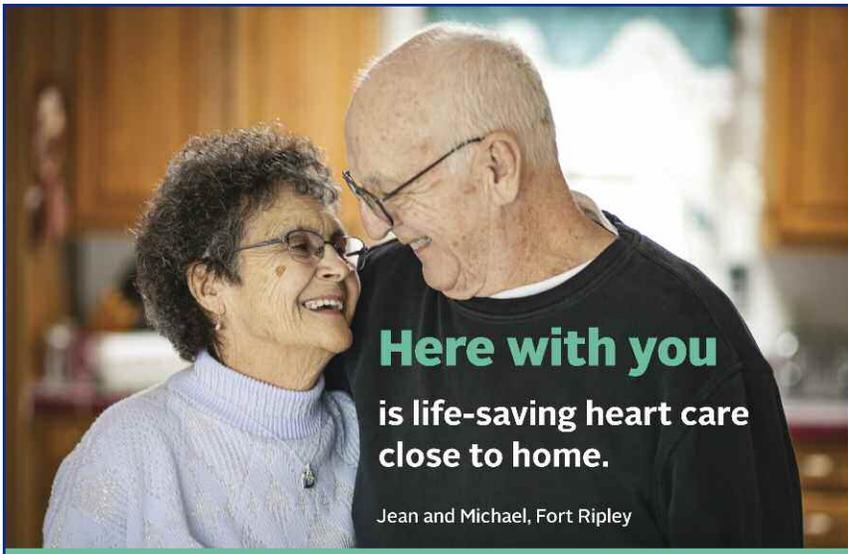
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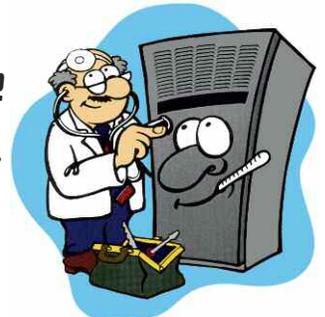
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