



PLPOA E-NEWSLETTER  
October 2016

## **E-Newsletter October 2016**

This E-Newsletter will provide updates on events, projects and issues important to PLPOA Members.

- Greetings From the President
- 2016 / 2017 PLPOA Calendar of Events
- Wired2Fish Video
- Starry Stonewort Video from FOX News
- AIS Summit II Review
- DNR Coordinating New Starry Stonewort Treatment
- Mice are Coming Out of the Woodwork in Lakes Country
- Tourism: The Importance of Visitors to Our Local Economy
- DNR Looking for Applicants for Fish Work Groups
- Zebra Mussels Found in Lake Maud and Sybil Lake Near Vergas
- Vote for Water on November 8th
- PLPOA Donations Appeal

## **Fall Season at the Lake**



Picture courtesy of David Majkrzak

## **Greetings From The President**

There is no ice yet but almost all of the docks and boatlifts are out in anticipation of the usual Nov ice over!

I'd like you to be aware of three things that concern the Board:

1. A purchase agreement that would have kept the west end golf course from becoming more trailer park spaces has fallen through. The golf course is still for sale.
2. The DNR conducted Walleye fingerling electrofishing in Pelican on Sept 9 to determine if they will stock additional walleye fingerlings in Pelican this fall. Results of 46/hour is above the 42 mean score for 17 years of testing. This means the DNR will not stock Walleye fingerlings in Pelican this fall.

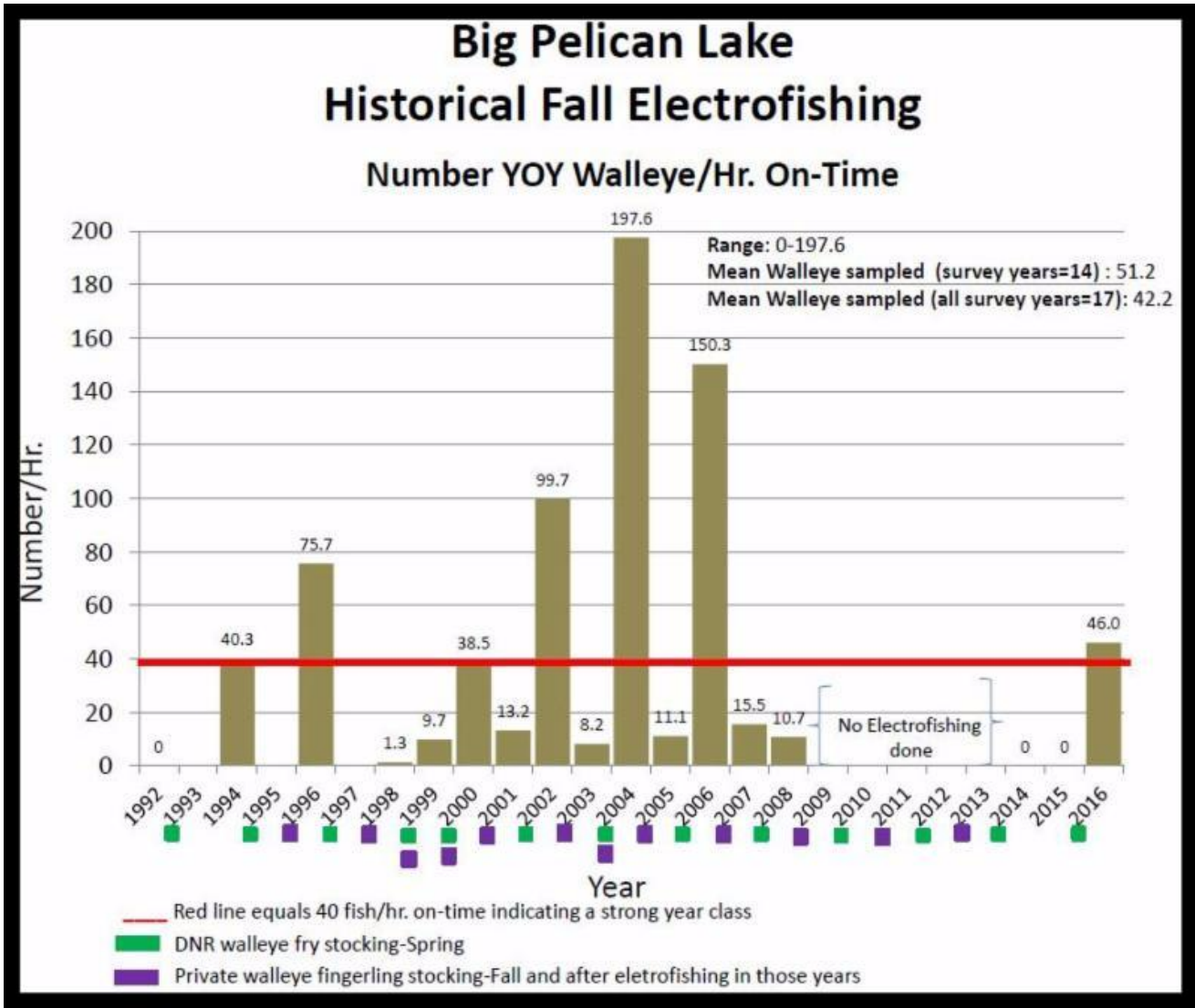
I encourage you to look at the DNR chart for 17 years of testing. The fish caught ranges from 198 to 0. And there have been ZERO caught 3 times as recently as 2014 and 2015. I think 0 to 198 over 17 samples is quite a large swing and am concerned that this is the predictor of whether or not we get support from the DNR.

As you know the DNR administers their own electrofishing test and writes their own report card. Our lake volunteers who observed the process this year have some valid concerns about the variances in the testing methodology:

- The DNR caught a total of 13 walleye with the "generator on" for 17 minutes. A preferred method is to test longer than 17 minutes and catch more fish.
- The DNR tested in a limited, targeted geography. A preferred method is to test more places on the lake.

- The past two years (2014 and 2015) of electrofishing were done later in the fall and produced ZERO walleye.
- So after two years of ZERO catch and one year of a small catch of 13 over 17 minutes, the DNR reports we have plenty of walleye.

The DNR did stock Pelican with Fry last spring but Fry are smaller and less successful. We used to stock fingerlings ourselves for better results but the majority of the board voted to stop our own walleye stocking altogether.



3. Volunteers are doing what they can to protect the lake. I don't think anyone else is as prepared or motivated to protect it as well as we are. Please stay involved. Talk to any friends or family around the lake that need to be better informed about the possibilities ahead of us. There is a demographic trend showing Americans are moving to water. We need to make sure they understand what it takes to preserve the beauty they seek. We have been restructuring the volunteer roles to enable more folks to be involved, reducing the burden on the few. Join us please.

The PLPOA By-Laws allow for members to designate a representative to attend meetings and be the point person for their family. Please consider sending an interested family member if you are too busy or unable to attend and volunteer yourself.

Thanks for your membership and donations. Please keep those concerns and suggestions coming .....

[Sherry, PLPOA Pres](#)

## 2016 / 2017 Calendar

12/05/16	9:00 a.m.	Executive Committee Meeting
01/17/17	9:00 a.m.	Executive Committee Meeting
03/01/17	9:00 a.m.	Executive Committee Meeting
04/18/17	9:00 a.m.	Executive Committee Meeting
05/19/17	4:30 p.m.	Board Meeting - Fair Hills Resort Blue/Green Room
05/19/17	5:30 p.m.	Member Spring Social - Fair Hills Pavilion
05/19/17	6:00 p.m.	Member Spring Meeting
05/30/17	9:00 a.m.	Executive Committee Meeting
06/03/17	8:30 a.m.	Majors & Captains Meeting - Fair Hills Blue/Green Room
06/14/17		Clean up Day
06/17/17	8:30 a.m.	Board Meeting - Fair Hills Resort Blue/Green Room
07/04/17		Independence Day Parade and Fireworks
07/10/17	9:00 a.m.	Executive Committee Meeting
07/22/17	8:30 a.m.	Board Meeting - Fair Hills Pine Room
07/22/17	9:30 a.m.	Member Annual Breakfast - Fair Hills Dining Room
07/22/17	10:00 a.m.	Member Annual Association Meeting - Fair Hills Dining Room
08/18/17	4:30 p.m.	Board Meeting - Fair Hills Pine Room
08/18/17	5:30 p.m.	PLPOA Volunteer Appreciation Social - Fair Hills (by invitation)
08/18/17	6:30 p.m.	PLPOA Volunteer Appreciation Dinner - Fair Hills (by invitation)
09/11/17	9:00 a.m.	Executive Committee Meeting
11/15/17	9:00 a.m.	Executive Committee Meeting

**Wired2Fish Video From AIS Summit**



Wired2Fish graciously produced a short video on the impacts of AIS for the recent Aquatic Invaders Summit. We've had a lot of inquires on the availability of the video. Here is a link. Please feel free to use it to advance our purpose - and a HUGE Thank You to [Wired2Fish](#). Go [HERE](#) for the video.

## Starry Stonewort Video from FOX News



This disturbing video from FOX News graphically shows the danger posed by Starry Stonewort. [FOX STARRY STONEWORT VIDEO](#)

## AIS Summit II Review



The two day AIS Summit was sponsored by MLR (MN Lakes and Rivers) and the IF Foundation. The two days consisted of general presentations to the total group, and breakout sessions that allowed participants to choose general subject areas from detail AIS discussion, to broader AIS management and strategies for education, stopping the spread, and partnerships. Below are some notes and comments from the sessions I attended.

1. Starry Stonewort received significant attention, and has now has been identified in 8 more lakes this summer, since the original find in Lake Koronis last fall. A presentation by the MNDNR on their efforts to contain Starry Stonewort in Big Turtle lake in Beltrami County shows the reality of the "token" effort by the MNDNR on AIS. The infestation was found at the public MNDNR access, and was only temporarily closed for treatment, and then three weeks while lake access was granted by a private resort. After allowing boats to drive through the partitioned off area, hauling out 405 tons of soil and plant matter, a recheck shows 10 % of the Starry Stonewort remains on the beach area. There are no plans for more action, and the boat access is open.
2. The economic impacts and financial efforts of AIS were discussed at several sessions. A Wisconsin study estimated a \$140 Million loss of tax value on Lake Mendota, with a 3 foot loss of Secchi disk water clarity. The \$ 10 million dollars to counties was discussed, and efforts to document and quantify the success and importance of those dollars are underway, and were part of the final session of the summit. The \$ 8 million dollars the MNDNR uses to fight AIS is about half used on projects, and half for administrative overhead. The economic impact of AIS to property value and taxes, the local economy, and tourism is not fully understood or appreciated by all of us stakeholders. The concerns of Starry Stonewort are just being understood, the only known lake with both ZM and Spiny Water Flea is Mille Lacs and their fishing, tourism and property value problems are well known. It will take more commitment by all stakeholders to stop new AIS in any lake ecosystem.
3. Dr. Peter Sorensen gave a presentation on Marine Protected Areas (MPA). There are hundreds of examples of MPA's around the world, and Dr. Sorensen believes that portions of some lakes, or lake areas could be set aside in Minnesota to demonstrate and preserve what a natural lake environment can do without the introduction of non-native species and man made changes.
4. Other areas of the US and world are making significant steps toward controlling AIS. In Montana the Blackfeet Indian reservation will not allow boats (or any water equipment) to launch

without a "permit to launch". In New Zealand they plan to eliminate non-native rats by 2050. Computer models are being created to predict the spread of AIS.

It is concerning that the movement by the MNDNR and other state agencies is not fast enough or significant enough when it comes to AIS control and prevention in Minnesota lakes and rivers. At the county level we must lead, and push harder to protect our resources, waiting for state government will be too little- too late.

[David Majkrzak](#)

## **DNR Coordinating New Starry Stonewort Treatment**

Public access closed during treatment

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is partnering with the Greater Lake Sylvia Association on an aggressive new treatment method for the invasive algae starry stonewort in West Lake Sylvia in Wright County. This week's treatment is the first time the diver-assisted suction harvest, or DASH, method has been used in Minnesota.

Earlier this month, DNR invasive species staff confirmed a half-acre of sparse to moderate growth of starry stonewort at the public access to West Lake Sylvia. The public access, which also provides access to adjoining East Lake Sylvia, will be closed for about a month during the treatment. An alternative public access site has been made available at Camp Chi-Rho, located on a peninsula directly east of the temporarily closed public access. The DNR is working with the Greater Lake Sylvia Association to provide signs and directions to the temporary access.

The lake association is sharing in the cost of the effort to remove the half-acre of starry stonewort from the lake.

Diver assisted suction harvest is a manual control method that combines hand pulling with machine suction to physically remove starry stonewort while sparing native vegetation, followed by application of a selective herbicide.

"We're hoping for effective treatment of the relatively small area where starry stonewort is present," said Heidi Wolf, DNR invasive species unit supervisor. "While no treatment method has eradicated starry stonewort from any lake in the United States, this aggressive treatment will at least remove enough of the algae to minimize the risk of spread to other parts of the lake and to other lakes."

Starry stonewort are grass-like algae that may produce dense mats, which could interfere with use of the lake. The invasive algae also may choke out native plants.

The algae is typically spread by lake users who transport fragments of the plant from an infested body of water. Lake users must follow Minnesota laws to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species, whether or not a lake has invasive species:

- Clean aquatic plants and animals from watercraft.

- Drain all water by removing drain plugs and keep drain plugs out while transporting watercraft.
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.

Some invasive species are small and difficult to see at the access. To prevent their spread, take one or more of the following precautions before moving to another body of water, especially after leaving infested waters:

- Spray with high-pressure water.
- Rinse with very hot water (120 degrees F for at least two minutes or 140 degrees F for at least 10 seconds).
- Dry for at least five days.

More information about aquatic invasive species and how to report them is available

[HERE](#)

## **Mice are Coming Out of the Woodwork in Lakes Country**

By Nathan Bowe on Oct 5, 2016 at 9:02 a.m

An influx of outdoor mice has area homeowners on the verge of mouse madness.

Mouse traps and mouse bait have been selling at record levels, exterminators are staying busy and people who have never had house cats before are bringing in "mousers" to join the fight.

Read [MORE](#)

## **Tourism: The Importance of Visitors to Our Local Economy**

Nick Leonard, Otter Tail County Economic Development Director, has compiled an analysis of the economic impact from visitors to Otter Tail County. He expresses his concern regarding the decline in the resort industry. Go [HERE](#) to see the Nick Leonard paper.

## **DNR Looking for Applicants for Fish Work Groups**

Volunteers can apply to join one of five citizen-agency work groups that will discuss how the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources manages fish. There will be individual work groups for bass, catfish, panfish and walleye, and one that will focus on both northern pike and muskellunge.

"Fisheries work groups help improve discussion between citizens and the DNR. Group members can talk about angler points of view and fisheries issues in detail, and these are valuable discussions," said Don Pereira, DNR fisheries chief. "We want to have groups with a variety of viewpoints represented and members will work together to discuss topics including recreation, water quality, fish habitat and effects on local economies."

Volunteers can apply to one of the five groups from Monday, Oct. 3, to Sunday, Nov. 6. Each group of about 15 people will include volunteers and DNR staff who meet two or three times per year to discuss new research, population, harvest trends and fisheries management. Meetings



average three to four hours, not including travel time.

Participants will be selected by the DNR and can serve a term of either two or three years. The groups are advisory and do not make decisions on policy or fish management.

For more information or an application form, Go [HERE](#) or call 651-259-5182.

## **Zebra Mussels Found in Lake Maud and Sybil Lake Near Vergas**



The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed zebra mussels in Maud Lake in Becker County and Sybil Lake, south of Vergas in Otter Tail County. In both cases, the zebra mussels were found on boat lifts when they were removed from the water.

According to the DNR, both incidents serve as good reminders for citizens to check equipment as they remove it each season.

DNR invasive species staff confirmed live zebra mussels on a boat lift removed from Sybil Lake. The DNR appreciates the assistance of the property owner who made the initial report and the lake service provider business that removed the boat lift from the lake in late September. DNR invasive species staff did not find any other zebra mussels in the lake or on other nearby equipment. They will conduct more extensive follow-up searches.

A vigilant lake service provider business reported finding two zebra mussels attached to a boat lift they were removing from Maud Lake. In a follow-up search, DNR invasive species staff found and removed one additional zebra mussel about a half-

mile from the area where the boat lift was removed.

"Minnesota law requires docks and boat lifts to be out of the water for at least 21 days before putting them in another body of water," said Heidi Wolf, DNR invasive species unit supervisor. "This requirement is one of the most important tools for preventing the spread of zebra mussels and other aquatic invasive species. Lake service provider businesses receive specific training about this law, but it's essential for everyone to follow it, even when the lake a dock or lift comes out of is not listed as infested."

Zebra mussels are an invasive (nonnative) species that can compete with native species for food and habitat, cut the feet of swimmers, reduce the performance of boat motors and cause expensive damage to water intake pipes.

Less than 2 percent of Minnesota's 11,842 lakes are listed as infested with zebra mussels. Along with the 21-day dry law before putting a dock or lift into another body of water, Minnesota law requires boaters and anglers to:

Clean their watercraft of aquatic plants and prohibited invasive species.

Drain all water by removing drain plugs and keeping them out during transport.

Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.

Some invasive species are small and difficult to see at the access. To remove or kill them, take one or more of the following precautions before moving to another waterbody, especially after leaving infested waters:

Spray with high-pressure water.

Rinse with very hot water (120 degrees F for at least two minutes or 140 degrees F for at least 10 seconds).

Dry for at least five days.

Go [HERE](#) for more information.

## **Vote for Water on November 8th**

I know that this election seems to be grinding on forever, and that many feel disgusted by both the tone and the content of the national political debate. But this election is an opportunity to make progress on a core, nonpartisan issue: healthy lakes and rivers.

Elections matter for our lakes. What happens in St. Paul DOES impact us at the end of

our docks. Right now is your best opportunity to advance your lake goals.

Candidates, both incumbent and challengers, are actively looking for your vote as they run for State House and Senate seats, many of which are won or lost by a few hundred votes or less - about the size of the average lake association.

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While Presidential politics are dominated by party affiliation and ideology, local elections are more dependent on local issues - and water is neither a Republican nor a Democratic issue. Nothing is more important to the economies, the way of life and the communities of Greater Minnesota than healthy lakes and rivers.

You may want to research the positions Minnesota legislators take on lake issues. What we would like to encourage them to do is:

- Pass a law to stop building additional boat access sites until there are no more lakes being infested with aquatic invasive species,
- Close access sites, like Koronis, when there is local support and a clear need to do so,
- Support mandatory roadside inspection for trailered watercraft and water related equipment at roadside "choke point" inspection sites to lessen the need to try to protect every boat ramp,
- Empower citizen Lake Associations to take a more active governance role in decisions that impact their lakes, so that their local quality of life and economies are protected,
- Support an incentive program for those that protect, enhance and restore shoreline above the minimum standards required by law,
- Support establishing citizen advisory committee to oversee the spending of the County AIS Prevention Aid.

This website will take you to a list of all the incumbents and challengers currently seeking office in the Minnesota

House: [https://ballotpedia.org/Minnesota\\_House\\_of\\_Representatives\\_elections,\\_2016](https://ballotpedia.org/Minnesota_House_of_Representatives_elections,_2016)

Here is a list of incumbents and challengers running for a seat in the Minnesota Senate: [https://ballotpedia.org/Minnesota\\_State\\_Senate\\_elections,\\_2016](https://ballotpedia.org/Minnesota_State_Senate_elections,_2016)

If you are not registered to vote, you can register [HERE](#)

[Jeff Forester, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers](#)

## **PLPOA Donations Appeal**

In June 2016, a mailing was sent to all PLPOA members requesting donations to replenish the PLPOA budget reserves. In case you did not see that email or have not yet sent in a donation, this is a reminder of the need for contributions.

In the past two years we have had unplanned legal expenses that the majority of the board and members voted to spend to protect the lake. New issues may arise again and we want to be prepared. Please review the work on these projects and consider a donation to the PLPOA to help defray some of our costs.

Please send contributions to Pelican Lake Property Owners Association, PO Box 1782, Detroit Lakes, MN 56502-1782. If there are questions please call Jim Prondzinski at 703-727-8039 or Sherry Trepp at 651-261-5475.

Sincerely,

[John Kruse](#)

PLPOA Communications Chairman