VOLUME # JANUARY 2011

ELRA Today

News and Views from Our Members

from the president's pen . . .

Happy New Year 2011 to all our members and friends in the Emily area!

We are thankful for every one of you! Our membership makes possible the walleye restocking possible this fall for everyone to enjoy, as well as provide funding our annual meeting and picnic, annual boat parade, printing and mailing our newsletters, notices, etc. We can not do it with your continued support.

Our new board members are ready to take on the challenges that lie ahead. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact ANY of them. We are a team, working for the betterment of our lakes and river. Have a suggestion or idea for a new project? Ask. We are here to listen to you.

This summer we will be having a boat parade and will be sending out informaiton in the summer newsletter. Our annual meeeting will be in August. If you'd like to help chair either of these events or work on a committee, please give us ample notice. ELRA is YOUR organization and member involvement is important in keeping it alive.

Membership renewals will be mailed out in March . . . just in time for the beginning of another wonderful year to enjoy our family and friends at the cabin.

This year, we have decided to give the newsletter a facelift. Please let us know your comments. We appreciate articles from our members for upcoming issues. Normally we publish a winter edition and summer edition. Our webmaster is Darlene Weiseler and would appreciate your comments as well.

Hope to see everyone this summer!

Ken Scribner, PRESIDENT
ELRA 2011

read and learn . . .

ANSWERS and MORE IN THIS EDITION!

WHO are your 2011 ELRA Board member volunteers?

WHAT is the name of the ELRA website?

HOW MANY fingerlings were added this fall by ELRA funding?

nature notes

During our years of coming to the Emily area we have experienced quite a few aspects of our surroundings. The following are some examples with some interesting notes attributed to each:

Trumpeter Swans (Cygnus buccinators). These beautiful creatures visit our lake region every fall and create quite a rukus during their short stay. Did you know that the last recorded "wild" breeding in Minnesota was from about 1885. Subsequent recovery efforts have resulted in more than 2,400 free-flying birds in Minnesota. Their long-term viability is threatened by such things as poaching, degradation of wetland habitat and lead poisoning from lead fishing equipment. The least we could do is "Get the Lead Out". Its size ranges from 4.8 to 5.4 feet in length with anywhere from 6 to 8 feet wingspan. The mate for life and usually have 4 to 6 eggs in late April, which the female incubates for up to 5 weeks. When the babies (cygnets) they usually follow their parents to aquatic feeding grounds within two days. They will be able to fly within about 100 days of age.

Forest Tent Caterpillars (Malacosoma disstria). These little buggers are native defoliators of a wide variety of hardwood trees and shrubs. In our area they tend to prefer the aspen, birch and basswood trees. When populations are at their peak they will resort to eating tamarack foliage. The North-wide outbreaks occur at intervals of five to ten years and are the same in duration. Records indicate that our last peak outbreak was in 2001-02 and lasted for 20 to 24 years. Defoliation can start as early as late May in our area and early June in northern communities. During outbreaks, forest tent caterpillars can number from one to four million per acre. Young ones spin threads and then drop on picnic tables, patios and people causing serious annoyance.

Adults emit a greenish-black fluid when disturbed that stains anything it touches. If you are wondering if it affects our trees, yes it does but for only about one to two years. The first year of defoliation they generally grow a second set of much smaller leaves and the second year about 80 percent of them are back to normal. These critters,

2011 board members

Ken Scribner, President
Ken Schultze, Vice President
Jan Pope, Secretary
Jane Schultz, Treasurer
Tom Hintz, Member
Chuck Proshek, Member
Wayne Gapsiewicz, Member

volunteers

Darlene Weiseler, Webmaster
Ken Scribner, Newsletter

through defoliation, can weaken a tree sufficient enough that secondary pests. This most often happens with our aspens. Over winters they stay within an egg mass on twigs or host trees. The eggs are hardy and as few as 10 percent will die in temperatures reaching –40 degrees. If one is to use insecticide treatments on their particular lot one should consult with the DNR for technical advice. Best way is to live with them since they are a native insect that has evolved in the forest ecosystem for thousands of years.

Bog and Fens

Did you know that bogs and fens are distinctly different? Both are wetlands that form upon layers of dead and decaying plant material called peat. Water in these peatlands is at or near the surface. Rain and snow are the only sources for water in bogs and they are very low in nutrients and acidic. Bogs are carpeted with sphagnum moss. They usually have stunted black spruce and tamarack trees and low shrubs of the heath family which retain their leaves throughout the year. Bogs are also famous for their insect eating plants and ground that bounces when you walk on it. Most fens are treeless and the most common plant types in fens include reeds, sedges and grasses. Fens are characterized by cold inflowing groundwater containing dissolved calcium and magnesium, creating ecological conditions that support certain very rare plants. Most are found in northern MN; however some fens have been located in prairie regions of the state. MN has more peatlands than any other state except Alaska. Because these aspects of nature are rare, relatively undisturbed and more important scientific, more than 170,000 acres across MN were permanently protected in 1991.

Western Poison Ivy (Toxicodendron rydbergii). This stuff happens a lot in our area and is identified with a single stem and only a few stubby branches and three leaflets. It occurs most often in forested regions but has adapted to a wide range of ecological conditions attributed to humans. Road construction, deforestation and fires have spurned the movement to roadsides and anywhere else it is given a chance. It often forms colonies sometimes more than 20 feet across, grow quickly and spread aggressively especially in damaged habitats. The sap contains a toxic oily compound (3-n-pentadecyl-catechol) that if virtually found throughout the plant. Contact may be direct with the skin, travel on your pet's fur, clothing and anything else that comes in contact. Remember the compound droplets can be carried in the air from the smoke of burning plants. Symptoms vary by individual but usually show up in 12 to 24 hours. Washing with soap and "cold" water will alleviate some of the symptoms but only if done within one to three minutes after contact. The fluid in the blisters does not contain the poison and cannot spread the rash. In fact, some animals can regularly eat the plant with no apparent harmful affects; in fact, it appears that only humans are susceptible.

Provided by Ken Schultz

walleye stocking on MARY LAKE

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources approved our permit for stocking walleye fingerlings in Mary Lake this fall. The DNR allows us to do this every other year; this is the third time ELRA has coordinated this effort, and it is totally funded through our membership dues. This year we again teamed with Bosek Fisheries out of Garfield, Minnesota for this service. Jim Bosek raises the fingerlings in his holding ponds, and does a lot of stocking for the DNR, in addition to doing this for private associations like ours. The DNR regulates the amount of fish that can be stocked based on the size of the lake. On November 3, 2010, we added 126 pounds of walleyes that averaged 5 1/2 inches each; this is about 2,200 fingerlings. The cost to ELRA was $1764.00, which is the same that we paid in previous years. Pictures of the stocking effort can be see on our web site (**www. emilylakes.org**).

Provided by John Bergstrom

Yes, they're in there (the lake, that is)! ELRA membership dues funded the walleye restocking this fall. 126 pounds of fish (maximum allowed by the DNR); that is about 2200 fingerlings.

meet CHUCK PROSHEK

My wife Barb and I have owned our home on the north side of Lake Emily since 1992. We became members of the Emily Lakes and River Association (ELRA) in 2002, the first year of operation. Our decision to join ELRA was simply because we believe in ELRA's mission statement to "preserve, promote, and improve the water quality" of our lakes and rivers. In my opinion, the single most important task of the ELRA is to educate property owners and lake users in how we can improve the water quality of our lakes and rivers. It is important to preserve our lakes and rivers so their beauty can be passed on to following generations.

My parents were not able to owner their own lake home but they occasionally would rent a cabin and enjoy fishing and boating. My father passed away before we purchased our lake home, but I know he would have sat on the deck looking at the lake all day. I know this because that is exactly what my mother did before she passed on. Our four children and their families are now sitting on the deck enjoying the view or taking boat rides looking at nature. ELRA will help us pass the enjoyment on.

Provided by Chuck Proshek

meet KEN SCHULTZ

Ken Schultz and his wife, Sharon, have two grown sons, Andrew (wife, Angie) and Jeffrey.

Sharon works at General Mills in the James Ford Research facility and I have been a Senior Account Manager for CenterPoint Marketing for what will be 30 years this coming March.

We purchased our lot on South Shore Drive during the fall of 1999 and started and finished construction on our lake home during the 2000 lake season. We will be lucky enough to experience our "happy place" for the 12th season this coming spring and have enjoyed every minute of it. Whether it is Ken soaking a line for that elusive walleye or just walking down South Shore Drive, it is always a pleasure to be on Mary Lake.

Volunteerism has prompted me to join the ELRA board to insure that our lake's fishery and the land around it are not taken for granted. Water quality, aquatic stability and the proper use of the land is paramount to insure that our future generations can enjoy it also.

Provided by Ken Schultz

some COLD FACTS about ice

New ice is usually stronger than old ice. Four inches of clear, newly-formed ice may support one person on foot, while a foot or more of old, partially-thawed ice may not.

Ice seldom freezes uniformly. It may be a foot thick in one location and only an inch or two just a few feet away.

Ice formed over flowing water and currents is often dangerous. This is especially true near streams, bridges and culverts. Also, the ice on outside river bends is usually weaker due to the undermining effects of the faster current.

The insulating effect of snow slows down the freezing process. The extra weight also reduces how much weight the ice sheet can support. Also, ice near shore can be weaker than ice that is farther out.

Booming and cracking ice isn't necessarily dangerous. It only means that the ice is expanding and contracting as the temperature changes.

Schools of fish or flocks of waterfowl can also adversely affect the relative safety of ice. The movement of fish can bring warm water up from the bottom of the lake. In the past, this has opened holes in the ice causing snowmobiles and cars to break through.

Provided by Jan Pope, Secretary