



ELRA Today

Tales and Travails from Our Members

from the president's pen . . .

Greetings ELRA members and friends! 2012 was a very busy year. We experienced record high water levels, destructive windstorms, a drought, and the removal of the stop logs from the dam. Late last summer the ELRA board was gathering factual information concerning the stop logs for a special newsletter and planning an open meeting with the DNR for late spring. In September, the City called a special meeting regarding the stop logs. The board sent out an e-mail survey. results were presented to the City Council and the DNR explaining that the responses to the ELRA survey

expressed overwhelming dissatisfaction with the water level. At this meeting, it was learned the stop logs were unauthorized by the DNR and by law had to be removed. Active management of the height of the dam is not an option. A DNR permit is required to change the level of a dam. The permit requirements are vast and costly. As owners of the dam, the permit request has to be filed by the City and costs incurred must be paid by the City. Residents can petition the City to pursue a permit. Minutes of the meeting are posted at the City website (www.emilymn.com).

Fish Soup

4 to 6 lb. northern, cleaned and scaled,
leave on skin and fins
2 bay leaves 10 medium red
1 large onion, chopped potatoes, diced
2 stalks celery, diced ½ lb. bacon, diced
Salt and pepper to taste Vinegar

Cover northern with water, add bay leaves, boil until fish floats; about 15 to 18 minutes. Scoop fish from water, allow to cool slightly. Remove meat from bones and skin and return meat to broth. Add potatoes, onion and celery. Fry bacon until crisp. Remove bacon from grease, add equal amount of vinegar to grease and heat through. Add grease/vinegar and bacon to soup. Add salt and pepper to taste. The soup will appear creamy. More vinegar can be added to taste - or - vinegar can be added to individual bowls.

Because of the removal of the stop logs, our water levels will not be what we have been accustomed to in the past 10 years. Lake levels constantly change due to weather conditions. Unless we experience another drought, our lake level drop (compared to the past 10 years) should equal 6", the size of the stop logs removed. If you encounter difficulties that could affect all owners (i.e., navigating the river), please contact the board. We will work with the City and the DNR to eliminate or at least minimize the problem.

We will continue to work with the DNR, and CW County in the hopes of finding the source of the high phosphorous levels in our waters. With that information we can develop a plan to reduce those levels. We will consult with DNR Fisheries to determine if we should continue to stock walleye or if another species would be a better fit for our lakes. We would also like to get volunteers trained to do AIS boat inspections, especially if the grant we applied for isn't approved. If you are interested in training as a volunteer, contact Jane Schulte, ELRA President.

Loons and Our Lakes

One of my favorite things to do is watch the loons that we see on Lake Emily and Mary in the summer with their black bill, red eye, black/green head and the spotty black and white body. The males and females are pretty much identical in appearance except the males tend to be a little larger. Listening to their calls at night is such a joy and makes me take pause and listen closely their beautiful sounds. The loon has 4 calls; the tremolo which sounds a bit like crazy laughter, and is their aggressive call. The wail is a long, drawn-out sound, the hoot, a shorter call, is used to communicate among parents and young. And the yodel is sounded by male loons guarding their territory.

Is it possible to attract more loons to our lakes? If done properly, artificial nesting platforms can be built and will supplement natural nesting sites and can also offer better protection from land-based predators—but unfortunately we cannot expect them to attract loons to the lakes. These floating platforms however, are effective when loons experience low nesting success due to water level fluctuations, disturbances in shoreline and/or predators. The overall best way to enhance the long-term health of loons is to protect the existing natural nesting sites. If you are interested in learning about loon artificial nesting platforms, here are a couple of websites to check out: www.northland.edu; www.minnesotawaters.org

DID YOU KNOW...

When doing landscaping on your lake/river property, permits may be required by the DNR and/or the City of Emily. The City may have ordinances that are stricter than those of the DNR. Check with both the DNR and the City before proceeding with your landscaping project. Call for info/hrs. at **(218) 763-3793** or email @ zoning@emily.net.

Some fun facts about loons:

- Average weight of a loon is 10 pounds.
- Loons eat 2 pounds of fish per day.
- In flight, loons flap their wings about 200 times per minute and reach speeds of approximately 70 miles per hour.
- Minnesota has approximately 12,050 loons
- Loons lay an average of 2 eggs and if there nest is destroyed will sometimes lay another batch.
- Natural predators of loon's eggs are raccoons, otter, mink, gulls, crows, ravens, and eagles. Loon chicks are most often eaten by eagles, muskie, northern pike, and snapping turtles.

Submitted by Becky Gromek

2013 board members

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Mark Drewitz, Webmaster

Ken Scribner, Newsletter/eBlasts



Look for your 2013 membership reminder in April!

If you do not receive one, please send a check for \$25 to: **ELRA, PO Box 111, Emily, MN 56447**

Lunch Vs. Dinner

It was a gorgeous day at the lake, but not yet warm enough to play in the water. So three year old Lola, with Dad and Grandpa in tow, went fishing from the dock. Little Lola was a real trooper as it took some time before the first nibble. When the bobber finally went down, she started cranking in the line. It was only a small crappie but you wouldn't know it by the excited squeals coming from the three year old. Spotting an easy lunch, a large northern swam up, bit onto the tail of the crappie, let go and bit again, getting a better mouth full. Lola's eyes were as big as frying pans. The guys were ill prepared; Dad ran for the net while Grandpa helped Lola. With the three of them all tangled

together on the end of the dock, Dad's attempt to scoop up the northern failed. You could hear the disappointment as the northern flipped off the line, only to hear enthusiastic yelling again as the northern immediately turned and snapped onto the crappie again. This northern was not going to be denied its lunch. After Dad finally netted the big fish, Lola, as proud as could be, dragged her northern to the cabin to show off her catch to Mom and Grandma. There was no crappie lunch for the northern but Lola, instead of Grandpa, had just caught the northern for our traditional Christmas fish soup dinner. Submitted by Jane Schulte

Meet the Board

KRISTI McLAIN—Hello, my name is Kristi McLain, the new treasurer of the ELRA. My husband David and I have owned a lake home on the south side of Lake Emily since 1999. We retired in 2011 and as of July 2012 have made this our home. We have a blended family of four children, a daughter-in-law, two grandchildren and another arriving in late May. Our family enjoys fishing, swimming, bonfires and watching the beautiful sunsets. When winter comes and the ice is ready we love to ice fish before we head to sunny AZ for a winter vacation! I look forward to being a part of the ELRA and doing my part to help improve and protect our lakes.

MARK DREWITZ—I've had the opportunity to enjoy the Emily lakes area since the late 1980's. First this was when visiting my folks who seasoned for several years at the Little Pine RV Park and later in 1998 after purchasing our cabin on the river. Since purchasing the cabin we have worked on erosion control, runoff reduction and shoreline regrowth. I hope to both learn and contribute to ELRA's mission during my time on the board.

KRIS BERGSTROM—My husband, John, and I have owned our house on the south side of Lake Mary since 1996. In November 2007, after John retired, we sold our other home in Maple Grove, and officially moved up north while I continued my consulting business, which we have just recently closed. We have two daughters and 5 granddaughters (aka The Princesses) who all enjoy spending time at the lake with Grandma and Grandpa.

The lake association presents a good opportunity for lakeshore owners to gather, learn and share important issues that affect our lakes and river. Hopefully this year will bring more members to the association so that we can share and implement our commitment to keeping our lakes and water quality the best possible.

For current information, check out www.emilylakes.org

EMILY LAKES & RIVER ASSOCIATION

PO Box 111

Emily, MN 56447

Annual Tree and Plant Sale

Crow Wing County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

SWCD sells low cost native tree seedlings, flowers, grasses and seed mixes. The public can pre-order and purchase plants until March 1, 2013. **Pre-orders before February 9th receive the Early Bird Bucks: \$5.00 off every \$50.00 spent.**

District Technician Darren Mayers ordered the plants. This year the sale features 16 tree species, 9 shrub species and 18 plant species. We also sell planting kits and seeds for landowners who want more variety. Kits contains 36 plugs of six plants species. Seed packets contain dozens of species in each bag and cover 500 square feet. Three mixes include: urban habitat oasis, shoreline buffer and rain garden. We only sell native plants from businesses in Minnesota" explained Mayers. "Local residents often ask me how to protect the lake. Healthy plants help keep lakes and rivers clean." said Beth Hippert. District Technician. "Plant roots filter polluted runoff. Plant roots help shorelines resist ice heaves. Properly planted and managed, trees can also block winter winds, so you can save on your heating bill. A twenty-eight dollar bundle of trees is one of the best investments you can make in your home." To pre-order plants and trees: complete the SWCD order form, submit payment and order form to SWCD Office, 322 Laurel St, Suite 13, Brainerd, MN. To receive Early Bird Bucks, orders must be placed by February 9, 2013.

To receive an order form: visit <http://www2.co.crow-wing.mn.us/swcd>, email robert.bauer@crowingswcd.org or call 218-828-6197. from Environmental Stewardship Newsletter

For more info, visit us online @ www.emilylakes.org