



## President's Notes

Welcome and "Thank You" to all members as we start the 2015 ELRA year. Your continued support and volunteering will be instrumental in facing the challenges to our lakes and river. If not currently an ELRA member, we invite you to [join!](#)

The control of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) detected in Emily Lake last year is a top priority for 2015. As we pursue implementing our Milfoil Control plan announced at the annual meeting, the Board will be monitoring and considering other treatment options. Our plan currently includes mechanical/hand pulling of the EWM. An additional challenge is EWM has been found in deeper water (8 ft.) which may require more specialized equipment or divers to effectively remove these plants. Other treatment options include chemical control and biological control. Both of these options have side effects on other plants or fish species and are not currently recommended by the DNR.

Walleye fish stocking occurred in October 2014 and is contemplated to be completed in 2015. The type, size and number of fish to be stocked may need to be studied for the possible effects on EWM control efforts. For example, biological control of EWM is hampered if the population of sunfish exceeds a certain level. If we pursue biological control of EWM we may need to consider a fish stocking regimen that maintains a lower population of sunfish.

Inspections and monitoring of our waters for zebra mussels and other invasive plants may afford additional volunteer opportunities. Boat inspections will continue at the lake access with an increased support level by Crow Wing County.

In summary, there are many opportunities for members to be involved in improving our lakes and river. Please consider these opportunities and email the ELRA Board at [elra@emilylakes.org](mailto:elra@emilylakes.org) if you are interested in participating in:

1. Water Sampling
2. Zebra Mussel Veliger Water Sampling & Training
3. EWM control - Mechanical, Chemical or Biological
4. Fish Stocking related to EWM control
5. Training Others on Plant ID and EWM Control

Your feedback on these and other issues is actively sought. Thank you for your consideration.

## Crow Wing County AIS Plan

Crow Wing County was awarded \$450,000 for 2015 from the State approved AIS funds. The county has developed a proposed plan for these funds. Because of the infestation of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) in Emily Lake, the lake access is now classified as "very high risk" by the county. Under the proposed plan, 400 hours of boat inspections will be provided by the County at the Emily Lake access - an increase from 175 hours in 2014. \$5000 is also available for EWM control, \$250 for educational materials and payment of lab fees associated with monitoring of zebra mussel veligers.

The 400 hours of boat inspections will provide the Emily access about 21 hours of coverage each weekend from opening fishing through Labor Day.

Currently the DNR's recommendation for EWM in Lake Emily is to physically pull and dispose of the plant. The ELRA board will further consult with the DNR regarding other treatment options which could be funded through the county plan.

\$250 designated for educational materials can be used for items like the postcard sent out late last fall regarding the ELRA pulling/inspection plan for the Eurasian milfoil.

The CWC plan also includes special project funds for detection of zebra mussel veligers (microscopic zebra mussel offspring). If detected early it increases the treatment and control options. The County will pay for lab costs but participating lake associations would need to take the samples. Water sampling will require equipment and training. The equipment would be at lake association cost. Volunteers would be needed if a decision is made by the ELRA Board to participate.

Provide your feedback on the elements of the County Plan and how best our lake association can partner with these efforts. Email your suggestions or willingness to volunteer for these efforts to the ELRA Board at [elra@emilylakes.org](mailto:elra@emilylakes.org).

## Newsletter Copy

You can download a copy of this newsletter in a PDF format from the ELRA web site at [www.emilylakes.org](http://www.emilylakes.org).

## ELRA Eurasian Water Milfoil Plan

Since the discovery of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) in Lake Emily, the ELRA board has developed a plan to combat the infestation. The lake has been divided into 64 sections requiring removal of or inspection for the invasive plant. YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

There are 35 sections that still need volunteers. We need to have volunteers lined up in order that removal can begin this spring as soon as water and weather conditions permit. For those sections not signed up for by mid-March, ELRA volunteers will be contacting you to encourage signing up for a lake section.

Anyone can volunteer to help. TRAINING WILL BE PROVIDED to properly identify, remove and dispose of the plants.

Please go to [www.emilylakes.org](http://www.emilylakes.org), check out the Milfoil Plan and sign up for one or more sections. If you have questions before committing, please contact the ELRA board at [elra@emilylakes.org](mailto:elra@emilylakes.org).

The ELRA Board will be monitoring the existing plan and consulting with the DNR on all control options. Funds may be available from Crow Wing County and the MN DNR for treatment and control of EWM if the current plan is not sufficient.

## Meet New ELRA Board Members

### Doug Tarasar

Hi! I have enjoyed the Emily area with my family for many years and have had a cabin on Emily since 2004. I retired from UPS after 31 years. I have spent the past 4 years being a full time Grampa to 6 grandkids, and a house husband to my wife Pamela.

Pamela and I have been married for 36 years and have raised 3 children while living in the Anoka/Andover area. I worked seasonally at Cabela's for the past two years and am going to stay on this year as a permanent part timer in the fishing and marine department. I have been a fisherman and hunter my whole life and enjoy upland bird hunting and fishing for any and all types of fish.

I am looking forward to being part of the ELRA board and helping in any way I can to keep our lakes healthy and safe.

### Jane Schulte

My husband and I have owned our cabin on Lake Mary since 2001. We have done several projects on our property to help keep our lake healthy. We planted native plants in the existing riprap and are expanding down the shoreline to help prevent erosion. The fire pit was moved out of the shore impact zone to prevent ash from being washed into the water. Our 25 foot wide "no-mow" area along the shoreline helps filter run-off.

I have been involved with ELRA since 2004; first as a volunteer and then as a board member (with a short break due to health issues of my parents) and am now back on the board.

I believe the board's current priorities should be the Eurasian water milfoil infestation, water quality and working with the City of Emily and the DNR to establish a consistent level at the dam.

## 2014 ELRA Fish Stocking Report

The ELRA Board requested a permit from the MN DNR to stock walleye fingerlings in Lake Mary in October 2014. The permit was granted and ELRA worked with Bosek Fisheries of Garfield, MN to handle the restocking. On October 10, 2014 Bosek Fisheries released 100 lbs of walleye fingerling measuring 8-10" into Lake Mary--- approximately 1400 fingerlings.

The DNR requested that if ELRA continues stocking Lake Mary we match the years the DNR stocks Lake Emily with walleye fry. The DNR advised that by working together and stocking the same years, it helps the DNR determine if the net pull is natural reproduction or if there is any fish migration. The DNR does realize the results would not be known for certain but fish stocking both lakes at the same time would yield the best data.

This requires ELRA to match the DNR stocking plan following their 2 years stocking followed by 1 year not stocked. The ELRA board will be discussing fish stocking options again for 2015.

## City of Emily Lake Study

The MN legislature approved \$50,000 for the City of Emily "for a study of the effects of the Lake Emily Dam in Crow Wing County on water clarity and water levels in Lake Emily, Lake Mary and the Little Pine River". The City formed a committee including residents on both lakes, a council member, a resort owner and a member of the ELRA board to research and give input as to what needed to be included in the study. Committee meetings also included a representative from the MN DNR and SEH, a professional services firm contracted by the City. A survey was sent out to all residents to help the committee determine what residents thought was most important to them. ELRA assisted by providing all association records that pertained to water quality/clarity.

Based on survey results, the committee came up with four areas that needed to be included in the study; water clarity, navigation/access, recreation and property values. SEH developed a proposed scope of the study for the committee's approval, corrections were made and the scope of the study was approved by the City Council in December, 2014. There will be several more meetings to track the progress of SEH before the June 30, 2015 deadline for the study to be completed.

## 2015 Trailer Decal Requirement

Transporting watercraft or water-related equipment with a trailer in MN now requires you by law to complete AIS training and display the required decal on the trailer. The training will begin on Jan. 31 and can be completed either on line or by calling 651-351-2000 to request a hard copy. The deadline for the training to be completed and decals to be displayed is July 1. The DNR has yet to post a cost to obtain the decal and training.

The MN legislature is considering changes to this requirement. If changed, an email notification will be sent out by ELRA.

For more information go to [www.trailers.mndnr.gov](http://www.trailers.mndnr.gov).