



ELRA Today

Tales and Travails from Our Members

from the president's pen . . .

I am your new lake association President. My husband and I bought our lake place in 2001 and will retire here in a couple of years. I have been actively involved with the association for about 8 years, have learned lots in that time and have implemented some of what I have learned on our property. (If you are out on Lake Mary, you can find us by locating the moose in our yard.) I continue learning by attending meetings and workshops; most recently an open house for lake associations and a free workshop.

The ELRA board had its first two meetings of the year. All dates for board meetings and the annual meeting are posted on our website. The annual boat parade is scheduled for Sunday July 1 at 1:00 p.m.

read and learn . . .

WHO are your 2012 ELRA Board member volunteers?

DECAL LAW CHANGES in effect 7-1-12

PLANNING your rain garden

E-BLASTS are another benefit of membership to ELRA

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP meeting / picnic

and the annual meeting and potluck is scheduled for Sat., July 28. Walleye stocking, a biennial event, will happen this fall, with John Bergstrom in charge. Paul and Bonnie Fairchild will continue collecting water samples for testing. The association has contracted with WAPOA to continue the inspections at the public access for aquatic invasive species (in water inspections) and we have added the Fun at the Lakes Resort, as it is the only resort on the lakes with a boat launch. Water testing results from WAPOA and Crow Wing Soil and Water will soon be on the website. We applied for a grant to have DNR interns do boat inspections for AIS at the public access; unfortunately it was denied. However, the City of Emily did receive a boat inspection grant. The city has to hire an inspector (the DNR will train). Check their website if interested in applying.

Do you have questions/concerns that your ELRA board should address? Is there a topic you would like more information on? Please contact me at jschulte@emily.net

Hope you all have a wonderful and safe summer at the lake!

Jane Schulte, ELRA President, 2011-12

Aquatic Invasive Species Decal Law Changes; Higher Penalties Go into Effect July 1, 2012

A program requiring watercraft owners to place an AIS rules sticker on their boats is being discontinued and replaced with an online education program. The stickers will continue to be given to interested boat owners for informational purposes only.

A new law, which goes into effect 2015, will require anyone who transports watercraft or water-related equipment with a trailer to complete an online education course. After completing the course, the person will receive a decal that must be placed on their trailer, certifying they have taken the course. Extra stickers can be obtained if they own or use multiple trailers for watercraft or water-related equipment. The DNR will begin developing the online AIS course soon to implement the new decal requirement for 2015.

Other new AIS laws will be instituted July 1, 2012.

- Civil penalties for violating the state's AIS laws will double. For example, failure to remove a drain plug while transporting a watercraft will jump from a \$50 to a \$100 fine. The fine for unlawfully possessing and transporting prohibited AIS will increase for \$250 to \$500.
- Boat lifts, docks, swim rafts and other water-related equipment (except boats and other watercraft) that are removed from any water body may not be placed in another water body for at least 21 days. The drying out period is designed to kill any AIS that might be attached to the equipment that are high risk and difficult to clean. Two zebra mussel introductions occurred last year as a result of water equipment being sold and moved from one water body to another.

For a complete list of rule changes go to www.mndnr.gov/invasives

Submitted by Jane Schulte

2012 board members

Jane Schulte, President
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Steve Kolkind, Vice President
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Becky Gromek, Secretary
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Tom Hintz, Treasurer tdbait@emily.net

Chuck Proshek cproshek@aol.com

Ken Scribner, Communications
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Wayne Gapsiewicz
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volunteers

Mark Drewitz, Webmaster

Ken Scribner, Newsletter/Eblasts



JOIN US TODAY!

Your ELRA membership provides:

- Funding for walleye restocking
- Boat inspections at the Emily access to protect our waters
- Direct contact with Board members
- Newsletters e-blasts, and so much more!

Emily Ordinance Revision

The City of Emily is considering a revision to the screening requirement found under the Performance Standards (SR) section of the Shoreline Ordinance.

Performance Standard A. currently reads: "Screening consisting of native trees and shrubs covering a minimum of 75 percent of the area (leaf on conditions) is required in the shore impact zone, bluff impact zone and wetland setback in order to retain the scenic beauty and rural character as viewed from lakes. To obtain a construction permit in this district, a re-vegetation plan shall be required for existing properties that do not meet this standard." The 75% screening is difficult to evaluate so the current re-vegetation standard has not been enforced.

The Emily Planning and Zoning Commission invited the area lake associations to meet with them in order to get the associations' input on rewriting this part of the ordinance. Public hearings will be held in the Spring/early Summer allowing lake property owners to voice their opinions on the proposed revision. After the public hearings, a final draft of the ordinance revision will be presented to the Emily City Council for action.

The Planning and Zoning commissioners will discuss the revision at their December meeting. Then the commissioners and the lake association reps will meet again later this winter. My personal opinion is that any revision should require some type of re-vegetation clause as the standard now does. Almost all permits (building, sand blankets, riprap, etc) have a negative impact on our waters. Therefore, some type of re-vegetation should be required to counteract that negative impact. Keep in mind, this standard only affects those property owners who request a permit. Regardless of my opinion, please contact me with your questions/concerns at jschulte@emily.net, so I can best represent our association.

meet BECKY GROMEK

Hello! My name is Becky Gromek, and my husband Donny and I own a lake home on the south side of Lake Emily since November 2004. I am employed as an Account Manager for a healthcare solutions company, and my husband is a Salesman for a wholesale lumber company. We've been married 33 years and we have two grown sons. As a family, we love to fish and enjoy the waters on beautiful summer days, and then, when those Minnesota winter days arrive, pull out the fish house and find some good ice fishing holes! I am looking forward to joining the lakes association and to contribute what I can to help preserve, promote and improve the water quality of the Emily area lakes now and for years to come.

Submitted by Becky Gromek

Minnesota's Breeding Bird Atlas: Help Write the Book on Minnesota's Breeding Birds!

This is a great opportunity to 'bird with a purpose' by participating in the Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas, the largest, most comprehensive bird conservation project ever conducted in Minnesota. In 2009, Minnesota began this 5-year project to document every breeding species in the state and where they nest. If you ever needed a reason to get outside and go birding, this is it.

2011 was our third of five seasons. There is still time, but only 2 more years left to join the project and make a lasting contribution to bird conservation. Results from observations submitted so far show changes to many species ranges. Since 1975, preliminary reports show that Red-bellied Woodpeckers have expanded their breeding range well north of Stearns County.

Red-bellied Woodpecker Breeding Range, 2009 - 2011 Two Ways to Help

1. Surveyors select and sign-up for a critical (priority) block. Blocks are available throughout the state. Surveyors spend about 20 hours between March and August driving, walking, paddling, or biking through different habitats within their survey block to record what they see. The goal for every block survey is to record as many species as you can find with the

strongest evidence of breeding observed for each species. Evidence includes: seeing a pair in suitable habitat, an adult carrying nesting material or food, or seeing fledglings. Participants do not need to be experts but need to be sure the species they report is correct. We do not count birds and you don't have to find nests, although by watching bird behavior you will definitely find them.

2. Field Observers document evidence of breeding species the same as surveyors, however, you can report breeding observations as you bird anywhere throughout the state or from your backyard or favorite birding site.

Please join us! Your observations will help us learn more about our breeding birds and you will improve your bird identification and observational skills. Results from the Atlas will map the distribution of every breeding species we find and support local, county, state, and regional conservation planning.

To learn more about this project, how to participate, or see Atlas results to date, check out our project website, www.mnbba.org. Review the 2011 Handbook, under the Materials tab, for important survey information then use the Easy Guide to get started.

Still have questions? Contact the Project Coordinator, Bonnie Sample at bsample@audubon.org, or 651-739-9332, ext 20. This project is supported by the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund and the MN DNR with Audubon Minnesota, the Bell Museum, Minnesota Ornithologists' Union, Natural Resources Research Institute at UMD, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Planning Your Rain Garden

Nowadays many people have heard of rain gardens, but do we know what they are and what are they supposed to do? Five years ago many people had not heard of a rain garden, or if they did, they thought it was a pond or water garden. The definition of a rain garden is "a garden with a depression that is designed to catch rainwater runoff in your yard, growing plants that don't mind getting partially flooded on occasion."

Why should we install a rain garden?

Rain gardens provide wildlife habitat and an opportunity to create beautiful landscaping. And, by soaking up rain where it falls, rain gardens slow storm water runoff, help prevent erosion and remove pollutants."

Where should you locate a rain garden?

Look for a spot on your land where water is collecting naturally after a rainfall, and then drains away within approximately 24 hours. Another place to locate them near rain gutter spouts, in areas where rainwater runoff flows directly into a lake or river and near driveways and other impervious surfaces. You do not want a spot that is boggy and swampy, but a spot that will drain.

FOURTH OF JULY BOAT PARADE

Sunday, July 1, 2012

1:00 p.m.

Meet at Emily Dam

What type of plants should you plant in your rain garden? This is important because you do not want plants that spread rapidly but you want clump form type plants. Good choices for a rain garden are: Purple Cone-Flowers, Black-Eyed Susan, Cardinal Flower, Joe Pye Weed, Rudbeckia, Blue Flag Iris, New England Aster, Swamp Milkweed, Prairie Blazing Star, Little Bluestem.

Installing a rain garden is one small step toward protecting our lakes.

A couple of good resources to help you plan your rain garden are

www.dnr.state.mn.us or
www.extension.umn.edu.

Submitted by Becky Gromek

DID YOU KNOW?

ELRA sends out e-blasts between issues to keep you better informed.

- Emails from ELRA alert members to workshops, training session, native plant sales, grant money for shoreline projects, and more. After the recent storm, someone suggested we alert landowners when storm damage occurs in the area. The board agreed this would be a good service to our members.
- Is there an event in the Emily area you think others might enjoy attending? Send the information to jschulte@emily.net and it will be posted on our website.
- DNR list of AIS infested waters is available at files.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/invasives/infested_waters.PDF or in the DNR fish regulations.

EMILY LAKES & RIVER ASSOCIATION

PO Box 111

Emily, MN 56447

**Are you willing to serve on next year's Board of Directors?
Please email Jane Schulte (email on page 2) w/ questions!**

Are you thinking about a shoreline restoration or storm water management project? There is matching grant money available; contact Kelly Condiff (Cass County Shoreline Specialist); he distributes money to multiple counties - kelly.condiff@co.cass.mn.us.

Annual Meeting & Picnic

Saturday, August 4, 2012

Emily City Hall

11:30 a.m. Register

12:00 p.m. Dinner

**1:00 p.m. Program/
Business Meeting**

Bring a Dish to Share!